1. Effective Tools to Master the Words
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7. Assess Yourself
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Explanations

Dear Student,

The journey to achieve success has begun. The CL Educate team brings to you an offering, which incorporates theme based learning that revolves around different concepts with diverse applications.The outcome is an enriching learning experience.

Our integrated thematic methodology is driven by latest research, undertaken to enhance learning. Numerous practice exercises and tests have been incorporated to reinforce the conviction in one's ability. Our teaching experience coupled with extensive research has lent credence to our conviction that learning is at its best when concept based understanding and applications go hand in hand.

To enhance your learning and assimilation of relevant concepts, our attempt has been to identify the basic concepts (or themes) that are required to solve different questions in MBA entrance examinations. Our class exercises integrate the different types of questions requiring application of these concepts. Each set of concepts along with relevant question types therefore, forms a module. At the end of each module we expect the student to:

1) Clearly understand a concept through its repeated application in different question types.

2) Quickly and effectively apply the relevant concept to different question types in a time-bound examination scenario.

3) Develop long-lasting skills by imbibing each concept that is clearly covered through a module.

Armed with the latest tools for success, along with your diligence and positive attitude, you have begun your march towards success. Have faith in yourself!

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,

But I have promises to keep,

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep

(Robert Frost)

Words

Funny Words

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Words

Funny Words

English has some funny words
They give my mind the jitters
They sound the same to you and me,
But are spelled with different letters.
There's see and sea
And be and bee
It's terrible confusing!
There's new and knew
And through and threw.
It's really not amusing!
There's deer and dear
And here and hear.
It's horribly disturbing!
There's there and their
And bare and bear.
It's really most perturbing!

English is a Pain (Pane)
Rain, reign, rein
English is a pain.
Although the words
Sound just alike,
The spelling's not the same.

There's deer and dear
And here and hear.
It's horribly disturbing!
There's there and their
And bare and bear.
It's really most perturbing!

English is a Pain (Pane)
Rain, reign, rein
English is a pain.
Although the words
Sound just alike,
The spelling's not the same.

Bee, be, b
I'd rather climb a tree
Than learn to spell
The same old word,
Not just one way, but three!

Sight, site, cite,
I try with all my might.
No matter which
I finally choose,
It's not the one that's right!

There, their, they're,
Enough to make you swear.
Too many ways
To write the one sound,
I just don't think it's fair!

To, two, too
So what's a kid to do!
I think I'll go
To live on Mars
And leave this mess with ewe!
(you?)

Effective Tools to Master the Words

Learning Objectives:

• An overview of importance of Vocabulary and familiarization with different methodologies to master it.

• A fair amount of knowledge about roots, prefixes and suffixes.

• Mastering a list of more than 200 hundred words in an alphabetical order.

• Self assessment with the help of tests.

The first step..

• Go through the list of methodologies given in this chapter. Choose the ones which suit you.

• Use your vocabulary notebook for taking the notes and jotting down the words.

• Master the given roots and the words pertaining to them.

• Do the given exercises to measure your learnings.

• Go through the word list in the end. Fix your target for each day. The words which are absolutely essential to know are highlighted.

English a West Germanic language that originated from the Anglo-Frisian dialects was brought to Britain by Germanic settlers and Roman auxiliary troops from various parts of what is now northwest Germany and the Northern Netherlands. Initially, Old English was a diverse group of dialects, reflecting the varied origins of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms of England. One of these dialects, Late West Saxon, eventually came to dominate. The original Old English language was then influenced by two waves of invasion. The first was by language speakers of the Scandinavian branch of the Germanic family; they conquered and colonized parts of Britain in the 8th and 9th centuries. The second was the Normans in the 11th century, who spoke Old Norman and ultimately developed an English variety of this called Anglo-Norman. These two invasions caused English to become "mixed" to some degree.

Cohabitation with the Scandinavians resulted in a significant grammatical simplification and lexical enrichment of the Anglo-Frisian core of English; the later Norman occupation led to the grafting onto that Germanic core of a more elaborate layer of words from the Romance branch of the European languages. This Norman influence entered English largely through the courts and government. Thus, English developed into a "borrowing" language of great flexibility and with a huge vocabulary.

English assimilates of variety of words every year from different sources. It becomes a daunting task for a non-native speaker to gain a good hold on the language.

Various methods have been suggested by the English language experts to go about vocabulary.

l **Association**- Try to associate the words with people, images, events, pages etc. for example, take the word `prolific'. You can associate it with John Grisham or maybe Jeffrey archer who writes a good number of books every year and gets them published. Therefore they are `prolific' authors. Another important step is to utter the new words in your everyday conversation.

l **Networking**- This networking does not refer to the social networking. Rather it refers to looking at words in groups. These groups can be **theme based**, **root based** or **antonyms** and **synonyms** based.

1. Theme based. Example-

Theme - Friendly

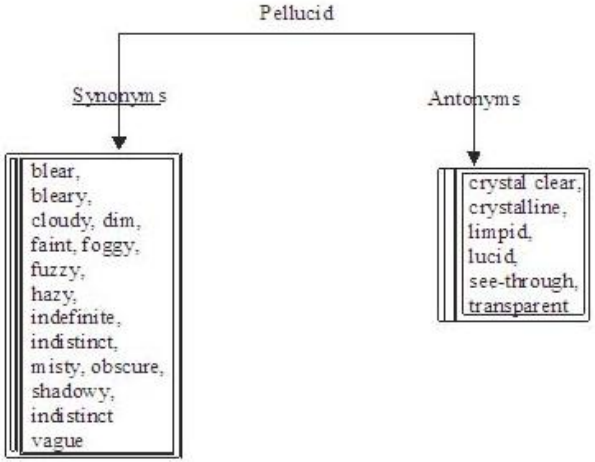
Words -affable, amiable, amicable, winsome, genial, gregarious, sociable, endearing, engaging etc.

2. Root based. Example-

Root - pel, puls

Words - pulsate, repulsive, impulse, compel, propel

3. Antonyms and Synonyms network



l **Flash cards**: You will be provided with flash cards on which high- frequency words will be printed. These cards are easy to carry and use. Fix a target regarding the number of words to be done everyday or every week. Make sentences using these words. Keep revising at frequent intervals.

l **Given below are a few root words and word origins**. Find more words which use the same roots. Don't hesitate in exploring more.

COMMON ROOT WORDS AND WORD ORIGINS

ANIM - mind, spirit, breath

animosity : hatred

unanimous : unison, together

magnanimous : huge, magnificent

ANN, ENN - year

annual : yearly

annuity : the payment of an allowance yearly or some other regular interval

superannuated : retired

biennial : occuring every two years

perennial : perpetual

ANTE, ANT - before

antecedent : preceding

antediluvian : old fashioned

antebellum : before a war

antepenultimate : before the last one

antiquated : old, outmoded

ANTHROP - human

anthropology : study of humankind

anthropomorphic : ascribing human charac-teristics to non-human things

ANTI, ANT - against, opposite

antipathy : holding bad feelings

AUD - hear

auditory : relating to hearing

audible : that can be heard

AUTO - self

autobiography : life story written by self

autocrat : a ruler with complete power

autonomous : acting independently

BELLI, BELL - war

belligerent : war like, aggressive

antebellum : before war

BENE, BEN - good

benevolent : generous

beneficent : helpful

benign : good natured

BI - two

bilingual : able to use two languages

BIBLIO - book

bibliography : list of books

bibliophile : book lover

BIO - life

biology : study of life

symbiosis : mutual understanding, or dependence

BURS - money, purse

reimburse : to repay, refund

disburse : pay out

CAD, CAS, CID - happen, fall

cadence : rise and fall of sound

cascade : small waterfall, a fast downward flow of liquid

CAP, CIP - head

decapitate : cut off someone's head

precipitate : rise suddenly

CAP, CAPT, CEPT, CIP - take, hold, seize

capacious : spacious

captivate : to enchant, seize or capture

deception : cheating

CARN - flesh

carnal : physical

carnage : mass killings

carnival : amusement show

carnivorous : Flesh-eating or predatory

incarnate : Embodied in human form

CED,CESS - yield, go

incessant : ceaseless, uninterrupted

recede : go back

CHROM - colour

chromatic : related to colour

monochrome : single colour

CHRON - time

chronology : order of years

chronic : long lasting

anachronism : an outdated person or thing

CIDE - murder

homicide : killing of a human

regicide : killing of a king

patricide : killing of a parent

CIRCUM - around

circumlocution : round about expression, indirect way

circumspect : cautious

CLIN, CLIV - slope

declivity : a downward slope

proclivity : inclination

CLUD, CLUS, CLAUS, CLOIS - shut, close

cloister : a secluded, quiet place

occult : relating to supernatural influences or agencies

CO, COM, CON - with, together

coagulate : to thicken

commensurate : of the same size, extent

COGN, GNO - know

cognizance : awareness

agnostic : one who is skeptical about the existence of God

CONTRA - against

controversy : a public dispute

incontrovertible : indisputable

CORP - body

corpse : body

corpulent : bulky

COSMO, COSM - world

cosmos : world

macrocosm : the entire world, universe

CRAC, CRAT - rule, power

democracy : rule by people

theocracy : government by a god or by priests

autocrat : self rule

technocrat : rule by people who have technical intellect

CRED- trust, believe

incredible : unbelievable

credulous : ready to believe even on uncertain evidence

credence : belief

CRESC, CRET - grow

crescent : curved

crescendo : a gradual increase in loudness in music

accretion : growth by fusion, addition

CULP - blame, fault

culpable : liable, punishable

inculpate : to accuse of a crime

exculpate : to discharge from a punishment

CURR,CURS - run

current : present

concur : to agree to something

cursory : superficial

precursor : forerunner

incursion : invasion

DE - down, out, apart

debase : lower

debilitate : weaken

declivity : a downward slope or bend

DEC - ten, tenth

decade : a period of ten years

decimate : to inflict great damage or destruction

DEMO, DEM - people

demographics : study of people

demagogue : a leader who obtains power by appeals to emotions & prejudices of the populace

pandemic : widespread

DI, DIURN - day

diurnal : daily, occuring during day time rather than at night

quotidian : every day, common place

DIA - across

diatribe : vehement speech

diaphanous : characterized by delicacy of form, transparent

DIC, DICT - speak

diction : choice of words in speech or writing

predict : to fortell something

abdicate : to give up, renounce

indict : to accuse of a wrong

DIS, DIF, DI - not, apart, away

disband : to disperse

disburse : to pay out, expend

discern : to notice something that is not very obvious

disparage : to belittle

DOC, DOCT - teach

doctrine : a body of principles

docile : quiet and easy to control

DOL - pain

doleful : sad

dolorous : full of grief

indolent : lazy, causing little or no pain

DUC, DUCT - lead

seduce : to entice

induce : to persuade

induct : to introduce formally into a group or organisation

EGO - self

ego : self, the sense of one's value

egocentric : self-centered

EN, EM - in, into

encumber : to hinder, or impede

ensconce : to hide, settle

embroil : to involve someone / yourself in an argument or difficulty

ERR - wander

erratic : inconsistent, deviant

aberration : deviation from the proper course

errant : straying, roving

EU-well, good

eulogy : high praise

euphemism : an inoffensive expression substituted for an offensive one

EX, E - out, out of

exacerbate : to make a disease or a problem worse

exculpate : to exempt from punishment

FAC, FIC, FECT, FY, FEA - make, do

malefactor : evildoer

refectory : a communal dining hall esp. in a college etc.

FAL, FALS - deceive

false : wrong

infallible : incapable of erring

fallacious : deceptive or misleading

FERV - boil

fervid : marked by great passion

effervescent : enthusiastic

FID - faith, trust

diffidence : shyness

perfidious : dishonest, treacherous

FLU, FLUX - flow

influx : inflow, flowing in

superfluous : more than sufficient

fiction : stories that someone has made up and are not true

infect : spread a disease

FORE - before

foreboding : a sense of impending misfortune

forestall : to prevent or hinder

FRAG, FRAC - break

fractious : unruly

fracas : brawl

fragment : an incomplete part

FUS - pour

profuse : plentiful

effusive : excessive in emotional expression, profuse

GEN - birth, class, kin

progenitor : a direct ancestor

progeny : offspring

GRAD, GRESS - step

digress : to deviate

ingress : access

GRAPH, GRAM - writing

biography : life history

bibliography : a list of writings relating to a given subject

telegram : a message transmitted by telegraph

GRAT - pleasing

gratitude : thankfulness

gratis : without payment

GRAV, GRIEV - heavy

grave : serious

aggravate : to make worse

aggrieve : cause distress, inflict, injury

GREG - crowd, flock

gregarious : sociable

egregious : extremely bad

exhibit : to show outwardly, display

HABIT, HIBIT - have, hold

cohabit : to live together as married couple

habitat : environment of a particular animal or plant

HAP- by chance

haphazard : unplanned

hapless : unlucky

HELIO, HELI - sun

aphelion : point on the orbit of a celestial body farthest from the sun

perihelion : point nearest the sun in the orbit of a planet or other celestial body

HETERO - other

heterogeneous : consisting of dissimilar elements

heterodox : unorthodox, unconventional

HOL - whole

holocaust : great destruction of life, esp. by fire

catholic : of broad or liberal scope

HOMO - same

homogenize : to make uniform in consistency

homogeneous : uniform composition

HOMO - man

homicide : the act of unlawfully killing another human being

bonhomie : good friendship

HYDR - water

hydrate : to cause to take up water

dehydration : the process of removing water from a substance

HYPER - too much, excess

hyperactive : too active

hyperbole : excessive, exaggeration

HYPO - too little, under

hypochondria : imaginary physical ailments

hypothesis : an assumption

hypothetical : conditional

IN, IG, IL, IM, IR - not

incorrigible : cannot be corrected

indefatigable : tireless, never giving up

IN, IL, IM, IR - in, on, into

insinuate : to refer indirectly to something

imbue : to inspire or influence, pervade

INTER - between, among

intermittent : happening at intervals, sporadic

intervene : interrupt

INTRA, INTR - within

intrinsic : inherent

intramural : occurring within the bounds of a school or institution

IT, ITER - between, among

transit : change, transition

itinerant : scheduled journey

ignoble : not noble in quality

JECT, JET - throw

abject : terrible and without hope

jettison : to throw overboard

JOUR - day

adjourn : to terminate temporarily

sojourn : a short stay

JUD - judge

judicious : wise

prejudice : an unreasonable dislike or preference

JUNCT, JUG - join

conjugal : related to marriage

subjugate : defeat

conjunction : the act of joining

JUR-swear, law

abjure : reject on oath

jurisprudence : science of law

LAT - side

unilateral : of relating to one side

bilateral : two-sided

LAY, LAU, LU - wash

ablution : holy washings

antediluvian : old fashioned

launder : wash

overlay : wash

LEG, LEC, LEX - read, speak

legible : capable of being read

lecture : a discourse on a subject before an audience

LEV - light

levitate : to make light

alleviate : to make less (pain etc)

LIBER - free

liberty : freedom

liberal : not restricted

LIG, LECT - choose, gather

eligible : suitable

elect : to choose

LIG, LI, LY - bind

liable : responsible

ally : helper

LING, LANG - tongue

linguistics : science of language

bilingual : able to use two languages

LITER - letter

literate : able to read and write

literal : word for word

LITH - stone

monolith : made of one stone, a massive structure

megalithic : made of huge stone

LOQU, LOCT, LOG - speech, thought

loquacious : talkative

neologism : coinage of new words

elocution : the art of public speaking

LUC, LUM - light

elucidate : to explain

pellucid : extremely clear

LUD, LUS - play

ludicrous : laughable

allude : to refer to

MACRO - great

macrocosm : comprehensive world

macroscopic : something which is big enough to be seen with naked eyes

MAG, MAJ, MAS, MAX - great

magnify : to enlarge, make greater in size

magnanimous : extremely generous

major : greater than other

massive : making up a large mass

maximum : the greatest possible quantity

MAL - bad

malevolent : spiteful

malodorous : smelling bad

MAN - hand

manual : written or done with hand

manifest : to show clearly

MAR - sea

marine : related to sea

maritime : related to or adjacent to sea

MATER, MATR - mother

maternal : characteristic of a mother

matron : mother like

MEDI - middle

medieval : belonging to the Middle Ages

mediate : to resolve (differences) between conflicting parties

MEGA - great

megalomania : an obsession with grandiose or extravagant things

megalith : large stone used in ancient buildings

MEM, MEN - remember

memory : mental faculty of retaining and recalling

memento : a keepsake, a reminder of the past

memorabilia : a record of things worth remembering

reminisce : to recall the past

METER, METR, MENS - measure

meter : measuring device

thermometer : an instrument for measuring temperature

perimeter : circumference

metronome : a clicking pendulum indicates the exact tempo of a piece of music

commensurate : proportionate

MICRO - small

microscope : an instrument that magnifies the image of small objects

microorganism : an organism of microscopic or submicroscopic size

microcosm : a miniature, representative system of something big

microbe : a minute life form

MIS-wrong, bad, hate

misunderstand : to understand incorrectly

misanthrope : one who hates or mistrusts humankind

misapprehension : misunderstand

misconstrue : interpret erroneously

misnomer : an incorrect or unsuitable name

mishap : misfortune

MIT, MISS - send

transmit : to cause, to spread, pass

emit : expel, to give out

missive : a written message

MOLL - soft

mollify : soothe

emollient : an agent that softens or soothes the skin

mollusk : invertebrate with a soft unsegmented body usually enclosed in a shell

MON, MONIT - to advise

admonish : to caution against something

monitor : electronic device used to record

premonition : a forewarning

MONO-one

monologue : a long speech made by one person

monotonous : one unvarying tone

monogamy : having one wife at a time

monolith : a single great stone

monochrome : having or appearing to have only one colour

MOR - custom, manner

moral : rules or habits of conduct

mores : customs

MOR, MORT - dead

morbid : very interested in unpleasant things like death

moribund : dying, becoming obsolete

mortal : subject to death

amortize : to liquidate (debt etc)

MORPH - shape

amorphous : shapeless, formless

anthropomorphic : humanlike

metamorphosis : transformation

morphology : the study of word formation, the branch of biology dealing with form & structure of organism

MOY, MOT, MOB, MOM - move

remove : to move from a place

motion : movement

mobile : movable

momentum : an impelling force

momentous : of outstanding significance

MUT - change

mutate : to change in form, nature

mutability : changeable

immutable : not susceptible to change or variation

commute : to serve as a substitute, to travel regularly between places

NAT, NASC - born

native : associated with one by birth

nativity : birth

natal : relating to birth

neonate : newborn infant

innate : inborn

cognate : related by blood or origin

nascent : coming into existence

renascent : showing new life

renaissance : rebirth or revival

NAU, NAV - ship, sailor

nautical : related to shipping

nauseous : sickening

navy : an organization of military naval forces

circumnavigate : to go around

NEG - not, deny

negative : indicating denial, refusal

abnegate : renounce

renege : to disown

NEO - new

neoclassicism : revival of an earlier classical style

neophyte : a beginner, novice

neologism : a new word

neonate : newborn infant

NIHIL - none, nothing

annihilation : utter destruction

nihilism : a doctrine of rejection of social & religious values

NOM, NYM - name

nominate : to appoint

nomenclature : a name

nominal : existing in name only

cognomen : a nickname, a surname

misnomer : an incorrect name

ignominious : deserving disgrace or shame

antonym : opposite

homonym : words pronounced or spelled the same way having different meanings

pseudonym : a fictitious name

synonym : word having the same or nearly the same meaning

anonymity : state of being unknown

NOX, NIC, NEC, NOC - harm

obnoxious : offensive

noxious : injurious to health

pernicious : destructive

internecine : mutually destructive

innocuous : harmless

NOV - new

novelty : newness

innovation : introduction of something new

novitiate : the period during which you are a novice

NUMER - number

numeral : a figure used to express a number

numerous : many

innumerable : numberless

enumerate : count, detail

OB - against

obstruct : to block

obdurate : unyielding, hardened

obfuscate : to confuse

obnoxious : offensive

obsequious : servile

obstinate : stubborn

obstreperous : boisterously and noisily aggressive

obtrusive : protruding

OMNI - all

omnipresent : being present everywhere at once

omnipotent : having unlimited power

omniscient : one having total knowledge

omnivorous : eating both animal and vegetable food

ONER - burden

onerous : oppressive

onus : an obligation

exonerate : to absolve

OPER - work

operate : to perform surgery

cooperate : to work together

inoperable : not functioning

PAC - peace

pacify : to ease the anger

pacifist : someone opposed to violence

pacific : of a peaceful nature, tranquil

PALP - feel

palpable : tangible, noticeable

palpitation : a rapid pulsation

PAN - all

panorama : wide view of an entire region

panacea : a remedy for all problems

panegyric : formal expression of praise

pandemic : widespread

panoply : a splendid or striking array

PATER, PATR - father

paternal : of or pertaining to a father

paternity : relation of a father to his child

patriot : one who loves, supports, and defends one's country

compatriot : a person of the same country

expatriate : one who has taken up residence in a foreign country

patrimony : an inheritance from father

patricide : the killing of one's father

patrician : a person of high birth, aristocrat

PATH, PASS - feel, suffer

sympathy : feeling of sorrow and pity for someone

antipathy : distaste

empathy : the ability to understand and share the feelings of another

apathy : lack of interest

pathos : a quality that arouses pity or sadness

emotions : strong feelings

impassioned : filled with strong emotions

PEC - money

pecuniary : relating to money

impecunious : penniless

peculation : embezzlement

PED, POD - foot

pedestrian : somebody travelling on foot

pediment : a wide, low-pitched gable

expedient : serving to promote one's interest

biped : having two feet

antipathy : distaste

empathy : the ability to understand and share the feelings of another

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expedient : serving to promote one's interest

biped : having two feet

quadruped : a four-footed animal

tripod : a three-legged object

pedal : foot operated lever for machine

PEL, PULS - drive

compel : urge with force

compelling : urgently requiring attention

expel : drive out

propel : cause to move forward

compulsion : an uncontrollable impulse to perform an act

PEN - almost

peninsula : a large mass of land projecting into a body of water

penultimate : next to the last

penumbra : partial shadow

PEND, PENS - hang

pendant : supported from above

pendulous : suspended so as to swing

compendium : a list or collection of various items

suspense : uncertainty

propensity : an inclination to do something

PER - through, by, for, throughout

perambulator : baby carriage

percipient : one that perceives

perfunctory : acting with indifference

permeable : that can be penetrated

perspicacious : clear-sighted

pertinacious : stubbornly persistent

perturbation : worried mental state

perusal : to read with great care

perennial : active through the year

peregrinate : travel around, esp. on foot

PER- against, destruction

perfidious : treacherous

pernicious : highly injurious

perjure : knowingly tell an untruth in a legal court

PERI - around

perimeter : circumference

periphery : the outside boundary

perihelion : point nearest to the sun in the orbit of a planet

peripatetic : related to travelling from place to place

PET - seek, go toward

petition : formal request

impetus : an impelling force

impetuous : vehement in feeling

petulant : unreasonably irritable

centripetal : directed toward a center

PHIL - love

philosopher : a specialist in philosophy

philanderer : a male flirt

philanthropy : love of humankind

bibliophile : booklover

philology : the humanistic study of language and literature

PHOB - fear

phobia : a strong fear

claustrophobia : fear of being in narrow or enclosed spaces

xenophobia : Fear and contempt of strangers or foreigners

PHON - sound

phonograph : rotating audio records

megaphone : a funnel-shaped voice amplification device

euphony : any pleasing sounds

phonetics : the system of sounds of a particular language

phonics : the science of sound

cacophony : an unpleasant combination of loud sounds

PLAC - calm, please

placate : to allay the anger

implacable : impossible to appease

placid : free from disturbance

complacent : smug

PON, POS - put, place

postpone : to put off

proponent : person who pleads for a cause

exponent : explanatory

preposition : a function word that combines with a noun or pronoun

posit : place firmly

interpose : to intervene

juxtaposition : positioning close together

depose : declare under oath

PORT - carry

portable : easily transported

deportment : conduct, behaviour

rapport : relation of trust

POT - drink

potion : a liquid medicinal dose

potable : fit to drink

POT - power

potential : inherent ability

potent : powerful

impotent : feeble

potentate : somebody with power and authority

omnipotence : having unlimited power

PRE- before

precede : come before

precipitate : to bring about abruptly

preclude : to prevent

precocious : exceptionally early in development

precursor : a forerunner

predilection : partiality, preference

predisposition : tendency

preponderance : superiority in power, important

prepossess : to preoccupy

presage : an omen

prescient : foreseeing

prejudice : preconceived preference

predict : prophesy

premonition : a forewarning

PRIM, PRI - first

prime : first in excellence

primary : immediate

primal : original

primeval : primitive

primordial : fundamental

pristine : in a pure state

PRO- ahead, forth

proceed : go forward

proclivity : natural inclination

procrastinate : to postpone needlessly

profane : serving to debase what is holy

profuse : plentiful

progenitor : an ancestor

progeny : an offspring

prognosis : probable course

prologue : introduction (play, novel etc.)

promontory : a projecting part

propel : move forward with force

proponent : a person who pleads for a cause

propose : to offer

proscribe : to prohibit, forbid

protestation : objection

provoke : to incite

PROTO- first

prototype : a standard

protagonist : the principal character, a leader

protocol : a code of correct conduct

PROX, PROP - near

approximate : almost exact

propinquity : proximity

proximity : immediate nearness

PSEUDO - false

pseudoscientific : based on theories and methods erroneously regarded as scientific

pseudonym : a pen name

PYR - fire

pyre : wood heaped for burning a dead body as a funeral rite

pyrotechnics : display of fireworks

pyromania : uncontrollable impulse to start fires

QUAD, QUAR, QUAT - four

quadrilateral : having four sides

quadrant : one fourth of the circumference of a circle

quadruped : a four-footed animal

quarter : one of four equal parts

quarantine : enforced isolation

quaternary : in fours, consisting of four

QUES, QUER, QUIS, QUIR - question

quest : a search

inquest : judicial inquiry

query : an inquiry

querulous : quarrelsome

inquisitive : Unduly curious

inquiry : a question

QUIE - quiet

disquiet : anxiety

acquiesce : comply passively

quiescent : inactive

requiem : a mass for the dead, dirge

QUINT, QUIN - five

quintuplets : consisting of five parts

quintessence : concentrated essence

RADI, RAMI - branch

radius : a straight line from the centre to the perimeter of a circle

radiate : to emit

radiant : emitting heat or light

eradicate : to root out

ramification : branch out, offshoot, consequence

RECT, REG - straight, rule

rectangle : a four-sided plane figure

rectitude : righteousness

rectify : correct

regular : customary

REG - king, rule

regal : magnificent

regent : a governor

interregnum : a gap in continuity

RETRO - backward

retrospective : looking backward

retroactive : made effective as of a date prior to enactment

retrograde : to move backward

RID, RIS - laugh

ridiculous : absurd

deride : to scorn

derision : mockery

ROG - ask

interrogate : to question

derogatory : disparaging

abrogate : to abolish

arrogate : to make undue claims

arrogant : overbearing

RUD - rough, crude

rude : ill-mannered

erudite : learned

rudimentary : elementary

RUPT -break

disrupt : interrupt

interrupt : to hinder or stop

rupture : to break open

SACR, SANCT - holy

sacred : venerable, holy

sacrilege : desecration

consecrate : to sanctify

sanctify : purify

sanction : official approval

sacrosanct : sacred and inviolable

SCRIB, SCRIPT, SCRIV - write

scribe : one who writes

ascribe : to attribute to a cause

circumscribe : restrict

inscribe : to write or engrave

proscribe : to denounce, prohibit

script : a style of writing

manuscript : document, or other composition written by hand

scrivener : a professional copyist

SE - apart, away

separate : to keep apart

segregate : to isolate

secede : to withdraw

sedition : show of defiance

SEC, SECT, SEG - cut

sector : a part or division of something

dissect : to cut apart

bisect : to divide into two parts

intersect : to meet and cross each other

segment : any of the parts into which something can be divided

secant : a straight line cutting a curve in two or more points

SED, SID - sit

sedate : calm or relieve by means of a sedative drug

sedentary : lacking physical activity

supersede : to replace, displace as inferior

reside : live in

residence : the place where one actually lives

assiduous : persistent

insidious : deceitful, treacherous

SEM - seed, so

seminar : any meeting for an exchange of ideas

seminal : related to origin, original

disseminate : to disperse

SEN - old

senior : older than another

senile : infirm with age

senescent : aging

SENT, SENS - feel, think

sentiment : feeling

nonsense : having no intelligible meaning

assent : to agree

sentient : conscious

consensus : general agreement

sensual : sensory

SEQU, SECU - follow

sequence : succession

sequel : a continuation

subsequent : following in time, order, or space

obsequious : exhibiting servile compliance

obsequy : a funeral rite

non sequitur : a statement that does not follow logically from what preceded it

consecutive : successive

SIGN - mark, sign

signal : an indicator

designation : nomination

assignation : an allotment

SIM, SEM - similar, same

similar : alike

semblance : an outward appearance

dissemble : feign

verisimilitude : the quality of appearing to be true or real

SIN-curve

sine curve : The graph of the equation $y = \sin x$

sinuous : serpentine or undulating form

insinuate : to introduce artfully

SOL - sun

solar : pertaining to the sun

parasol : small umbrella carried as protection from the sun

solarium : glassed-in porch exposed to the sun

solstice : highest point or culmination

SOL - alone

solo : alone

solitude : the state or quality of being alone

soliloquy : speech you make to yourself

solipsism : the philosophical theory that the self is the only reality

SOMN - sleep

insomnia : an inability to sleep

somnolent : drowsy

somnambulist : a sleepwalker

SON - sound

sonic : having a frequency within the audibility range, relating to sound wave

consonance : harmony

dissonance : discord

assonance : resemblance of sound

sonorous : producing a deep, rich sound

resonate : to exhibit or produce resonant effects

SOPH-wisdom

philosopher : specialist in philosophy

sophistry : plausible but fallacious argumentation

sophisticated : refined

sophomoric : showing immaturity or lack of judgment

SPEC, SPIC - see, look

spectator : an observer

circumspect : cautious

retrospective : looking backward

perspective : a point of view

perspicacious : clear-sighted

SPER - hope

prosper : to thrive

prosperous : flourishing

despair : loss of hope

desperate : extremely anxious

SPERS, SPAR - scatter

disperse : to spread

sparse : not dense

aspersion : slander

disparate : fundamentally distinct

SPIR - breathe

respire : inhale and exhale

inspire : fill with the urge

spiritual : concerned with soul, not material

aspire : to strive towards a goal

transpire : to become public

STRICT, STRING - bind

strict : harsh

stricture : a restraint

constrict : to compress

stringent : severe

astringent : pungent

STRUCT, STRU - build

structure : arrangement

construe : interpret

obstruct : to block

SUB- under

subconscious : the part of the mind below the level of conscious perception

subjugate : conquer

subliminal : below the threshold of conscious perception

subpoena : a writ requiring appearance in court to give testimony

subsequent : following in time or order

subterranean : being or operating under the surface of the earth

subvert : to overthrow

SUMM- highest

summit : the highest point

summary : condensed form

consummate : complete and perfect

SUPER,SUR - above

supervise : watch and direct

supercilious : showing disdain

supersede : replace

superannuated : retired, outdated

superfluous : exceeding what is sufficient

insurmountable : not capable of being overcome

surfeit : overabundance or excess of something

SURGE, SURRECT - rise

surge : a sudden or abrupt strong increase

resurgence : revival

insurgent : rising in revolt

insurrection : open revolt against civil authority

SYN, SYM- together

synthesis : a mixture

sympathy : act of sharing the feeling with another

synonym : a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another word

syncopation : a musical rhythm stressing a weak beat

synopsis : a summary

symposium : a meeting or conference for public discussion

TACIT, TIC - silent

tacit : implied

taciturn : habitually not talkative

reticent : restrained

TACT, TAG, TANG - touch

tact : consideration in dealing with others

tactile : perceptible to the sense of touch

contagious : communicable

tangent : irrelevant

tangential : erratic

tangible : clear and definite

TEN, TIN, TAIN - hold, twist

detention : a period of contemporary custody

tenable : based on sound reasoning

tenacious : holding together firmly, cohesive

pertinacious : stubbornly persistent

retinue : attendants

retain : to maintain possession

TEND, TENS, TENT - stretch

intend : to plan

distend : to swell out

tension : emotional strain

tensile : capable of extension, ductile

ostensible : intended for display only not genuine

contentious : quarrelsome

TERM- end

terminal : a part that forms an end

terminus : the final point

terminate : to end

interminable : endless

TERR- earth, land

terrain : a region

terrestrial : an inhabitant of the earth

extraterrestrial : originating outside Earth

subterranean : being or operating under the surface of the earth

TEST - witness

testify : give testimony in a court of law

attest : to certify

testimonial : evidence

testament : tangible proof

detest : to dislike intensely

protestation : declaration of objection

THE, THEO - god, deity

atheist : one who denies the existence of God

theology : systematic study of religion

apotheosis : glorification

polytheism : belief in several deities

monotheism : belief in single god

THERM - heat

thermometer : an instrument for measuring temperature

thermal : related to heat

thermonuclear : characterized by the use of atomic weapons based on fusion

hypothermia : abnormally low body temperature

TIM - fear, frightened

timid : shy

intimidate : fill with fear, deter as if by threats

timorous : timid

TOP - place

topic : the subject of a speech, discussion, conversation

topography : the physical or natural features of a place or region

utopia : an ideal and perfect state

TORP - stiff, numb

torpedo : self-propelled underwater projectile

torpid : lethargic, dormant

torpor : lethargy

TORT - twist

distort : misrepresent, perfect

extort : obtain through intimidation

tortuous : having many turns; winding or twisting

TOX - poison

toxic : poisonous

toxin : a poisonous product of living cells

intoxication : acute alcoholism

TRACT - draw

tractor : something that pulls or draws

intractable : difficult to remedy, manage

protract : prolong

TRANS - across, over, through, beyond

transport : to carry from one place to another

transgress : exceed or overstep

transient : passing with time, transitory

transitory : temporary

translucent : semi-transparent

transmutation : transformation

TREM, TREP - shake

tremble : to shake involuntarily

tremor : an involuntary vibration

tremulous : quivering from weakness or fear

trepidation : apprehension

intrepid : fearless

TURB - shake

disturb : upset

turbulent : violently agitated

perturbation : agitation

UMBR - shadow

umbrella : a bell shaped shade for protection against rain heat

umbrage : resentment

adumbrate : to disclose partially

penumbra : a partial shadow

UNI, UN - one

unify : become one

unilateral : confined to only one side

unanimous : in complete agreement

URB - city

urban : relating to a city

suburban : related to the outskirts of a city

urbane : refined

VAC - empty

vacant : containing nothing

evacuate : to remove the contents of

vacuous : inanely foolish

vacation : A period of time devoted to pleasure, rest

VAL, VAIL - value, strength

valid : well grounded

valour : bravery

ambivalent : contradictory attitudes or feelings

convalescence : gradual recovery of health and strength after disease

avail : use

prevail : influence

countervail : to act against with equal force

VEN, VENT - come

convene : assemble formally

contravene : violate

intervene : to come between

venue : the place for any event

convention : a formal meeting of members

circumvent : to surround

advent : the coming or arrival of something extremely important

adventitious : associated by chance and not an integral part

VER - true

verify : confirm the truth

verity : true principle or belief

verisimilitude : the appearance of being true

veracious : honest

aver : to affirm

verdict : decision

VERB - word

verbal : expressed in words

verbose : using more words than needed

verbiage : overabundance of words

verbatim : in exactly the same words as the original

VERT, VERS - turn

avert : to turn away, prevent

convert : to change into another form

pervert : corrupt

revert : to return to a former condition

incontrovertible : unquestionable

divert : to turn aside from a course

subvert : to overthrow

versatile : having many skills

aversion : intense dislike

VICT, VINC - conquer

victory : success

conviction : strong belief

evict : to force out

evince : to show or demonstrate

invincible : unconquerable

VID, VIS - see

evident : obvious

vision : the act or power of seeing

visage : facial expression

supervise : to watch and direct

VIL - base, mean

vile : disgusting

vilify : to spread negative information about

revile : to reproach

VIV, VIT - life

vivid : distinct

vital : full of life, animated

convivial : sociable, fond of feasting, drinking

vivacious : lively

VOC, VOK, VOW - call, word

vocal : relating to the voice

equivocate : to be deliberately ambiguous

vociferous : conspicuously and offensively loud

convoke : to assemble

evoke : to call out

invoke : to call on for aid or protection

avow : to acknowledge openly

VOL - wish

voluntary : acting or done willingly

malevolent : having or exhibiting ill will

benevolent : having a disposition to do good

volition : a conscious choice or decision

VOLV, VOLUT - turn, roll

revolve : to cause to turn

evolve : work out

convoluted : having numerous overlapping coils

VOR - eat

devour : to eat greedily

carnivore : a flesh-eating animal

omnivorous : eating both animal and vegetable foods

voracious : consuming great amounts of food

Practice Exercise 1

Use the given prefixes and form two words for each. Also give the meanings of the words. The first one has been done for you.

Prefix	*Word*	*Meaning*
In	Incorrigible	beyond correction
	Infinite	having no end or limit
Ad		
Un		
De		
Dis		
Re		
Pre		
Circum		
Bi		
Mono		
Im		
Ir		

Il		
Mis		
Ante		

Practice Exercise 2

Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions given below.

Despite the role reversals and other kinds of play acted out in *jouvet,* as a result of the actual separation between classes in the society, the early twentieth-century carnival developed on two distinct planes: as a rowdy, superstitious, always potentially violent carnival of the masses, and as a carnival of glitter and stiff-backed decorum among the upper classes. With the latter, the culture; while among the masses, the forging of a locally based and nurtured celebration remained the dominant pattern. Among the "cultured" middle class, carnival reflected the cultural ambivalence which affected them and came to be an important context within which this ambivalence could be addressed. From early on they had mixed attitudes toward the *canboulay* carnival, as indeed they had toward much of local culture. The agony of this class was the discrimination it suffered at the hands of whites who ignored the coloreds' deep desire to be recognized as equals in both culture and citizenship. In accounting for the absence of a tradition of assertion among the colored middle class in Trinidad, it has been observed that, "On rare occasions they would make a protest and, the ultimate pitch of rebellion, go to the Colonial Office. They did not do any more because all they aimed at was being admitted to the ruling circle of expatriates and local whites. More than that they did not aspire to ... For generations their sole aim in life was to be admitted to the positions to which their talents and education entitled them, and from which they were unjustly excluded" (James 1973:82)

From the passage, identify the words that begin with the prefixes given below and give their meanings.

Prefix	*Word*	*Meaning*
un	unjustly	lacking in justice or fairness
de		
dis		
ig		
con		
en		
ex		
super		

Assess yourself test

Let's Recap!

Use the word root and the meaning to find the most suitable word. The first one has been done for you.

No.	Root	Word	Meaning
1.	Anthropos	Anthropology	study of mankind
2.	Alter		welfare of others
3.	Pod		study of feet
4.	Theo		god does not exist
5.	Lith		study of rocks
6.	Neo		coinage of new words
7.	Graph		beautiful hand writing
8.	Chron		arrangement of events in order of occurrence
9.	Nihil		a doctrine of rejection of social and religious values
10.	Derma		treatment of skin diseases
11.	Narcissus		excessive love or admiration of oneself
12.	Metr		the science of weights and measures
13.	Bio		study of life
14.	Somn		the act of sleepwalking
15.	Gen		a record of the ancestry
16.	Paidos		the scientific study of the life and development of children
17.	Psyche		treatment of mental illness
18.	Geron		the branch of science that deals with aging and the problems of aged persons.
19.	Odontos		the science dealing with the study of the teeth
20.	Nepote		favouritism shown to relatives

Time Limit	Total Marks	Marks Obtained
5 minutes	20	

Word power

Given below is an exhaustive list of words. Go through a fixed number of words every day. Make sentences. Use them and write a paragraph about anything that you find interesting. Then move on to the next set of words. The highlighted words are the ones which you **should** know. Please note that the list discusses only the primary meaning of the word. There may be other associated meaning.

1. **aberrant:** abnormal.
2. **abeyance:** suspension; temporary cessation.
3. **ablution:** the washing of the body or some part of it.
4. **abrogate:** to annul; to do away with.
5. **abscond:** to depart secretly.
6. **abstemious:** temperate; abstinent; refraining from indulgence.
7. **abstruse:** difficult to comprehend.
8. **abulia:** loss or impairment of the ability to act or to make decisions.
9. **accede:** to agree or assent; also, to become a party.
10. **acquiesce:** to accept or consent passively or without objection.
11. **acrimony:** bitter, harsh, or biting sharpness.
12. **acuity:** acuteness of perception or vision.
13. **acumen:** quickness or keenness of perception or discernment.
14. **adamant:** not susceptible to persuasion; unyielding.
15. **adumbrate:** to outline; also, to foreshadow; also, to suggest; also, to shade.
16. **adventitious:** added extrinsically; not essentially inherent.
17. **aerie:** a nest or dwelling built in a lofty place.
18. **aesthete:** one who cultivates great sensitivity to beauty.
19. **aficionado:** an enthusiastic admirer; a fan.
20. **aggress:** to make an attack.
21. **agility:** nimbleness, adroitness, spryness
22. **agitprop:** propaganda.
23. **agog:** in eager desire.
24. **alfresco:** outdoors; outdoor.
25. **aliment:** nutriment or sustenance.

26. **altercation**: a heated, noisy, or angry dispute.

27. **amalgam:** an alloy of mercury with other metals; also, a mixture.

28. **ambit:** circuit or compass; also, sphere of action or influence.

29. **ambuscade:** an ambush; also, to ambush.

30. **anathema:** a curse; a person or thing cursed, or intensely disliked.

31. **ancillary:** subordinate, subsidiary; auxiliary.

32. **animus:** a feeling of ill will; also, animating spirit; disposition.

33. **anodyne:** serving to relieve pain.

34. **antiquarian:** one who collects, studies, or deals in antiquities.

35. **apogee:** the highest point.

36. **apologia:** a formal defense or justification.

37. **apostasy:** desertion or departure from one's faith, principles, or party.

38. **apothegm:** a short, witty, and instructive saying.

39. **apotheosis:** a model of excellence or perfection of a kind.

40. **apparition:** a ghost; also, an unexpected appearance.

41. **appellation:** a name, title, or designation.

42. **apposite:** of striking appropriateness and relevance.

43. **apprise:** to give notice to; to inform.

44. **approbation:** formal or official approval; also, praise.

45. **arbiter:** one having the power of judging and determining.

46. **arbitrage:** the nearly simultaneous purchase and sale of an asset in order to profit from price discrepancies.

47. **Arcane:** a mysterious, obscure.

48. **argot:** a specialized vocabulary peculiar to a particular group.

49. **Argus-eyed:** extremely observant; watchful.

50. **arrant:** outright; thoroughgoing.

51. **arrogate:** to claim or seize without right or justification.

52. **artifice:** an artful trick, stratagem or device; also, cleverness, skill.

53. **ascribe:** to attribute.

54. **asperity:** roughness of surface, sound, or manner.

55. **asseverate:** to affirm or declare positively or earnestly.

56. **assiduous:** constant in application or attention.

57. **assuage:** to soften; to ease, or lessen.

58. **atavism:** reversion to a remote ancestral type or to an earlier form.

59. **atelier:** a workshop; a studio.

60. **auspicious:** favorable; also, prosperous; fortunate.

61. **autochthonous:** indigenous; native.

62. **autocrat:** a ruler with unlimited authority.

63. **autodidact:** one who is self-taught.

64. **avatar:** an incarnation.

65. **aver:** to assert as true.

66. **avoirdupois:** weight; heaviness.

67. **avuncular:** resembling an uncle, as in kindness or indulgence.

68. **badinage:** light, playful talk.

69. **bagatelle:** a trifle; also, a short, light literary or musical piece.

70. **bailiwick:** a person's specific area of knowledge, authority, interest, skill, or work.

71. **banal:** commonplace; trivial.

72. **beau ideal:** a perfect or an idealized type or model.

73. **bedaub:** to besmear; also, to over decorate.

74. **bedizen:** to dress or adorn in gaudy manner.

75. **beholden:** obliged; indebted.

76. **bellicose:** inclined to or favoring war or strife.

77. **bellwether:** a leader or leading indicator.

78. **benefaction:** the act of conferring a benefit; also, a benefit conferred.

79. **beneficence:** the practice of doing good.

80. **benignant:** kind; gracious; favorable.

81. **bete noire:** something or someone particularly detested or avoided.

82. **bibulous:** of, pertaining to, marked by, or given to the consumption of alcohol.

83. **bifurcate:** to divide into two branches.

84. **bilious:** of or pertaining to bile; also, ill-tempered.

85. billet: to quarter, or place in lodgings.

86. billet-doux: a love letter.

87. bivouac: a usually temporary encampment; also, to encamp.

88. blackguard: a scoundrel.

89. blandishment: flattering speech or action.

90. bombast: pompous or pretentious speech or writing.

91. bon ton: the height of the fashion; fashionable society.

92. bon vivant: a person with refined and sociable tastes.

93. bonhomie: pleasant and easy manner.

94. bootless: unavailing; useless.

95. bowdlerize: to remove or modify the parts considered offensive.

96. beseech- entreat, implore, supplicate

97. brackish: somewhat salty; also, distasteful.

98. braggadocio: empty boasting.

99. bravado: a real or pretended show of courage or boldness.

100. bravura: a showy display.

101. Brobdingnagian: gigantic; enormous.

102. bromide: a commonplace or conventional saying.

103. bucolic: rustic; pastoral.

104. cabal: a group that seeks power usually through intrigue.

105. cajole: to coax.

106. callow: immature.

107. canard: an unfounded or false report.

108. canorous: melodious; musical.

109. cant: empty, solemn speech.

110. capacious: able to contain much.

111. capitulate: to surrender under agreed conditions.

112. capricious: whimsical; changeable.

113. captious: disposed to find fault or raise objections.

114. carapace: a shell; a protective covering.

115. carom: to strike and rebound; also, a glancing off.

116. castigate: to punish or criticize severely.

117. cataract: a large waterfall; also, a downpour, a flood.

118. caterwaul: to make a harsh cry or screech.

119. cavalcade: a procession.

120. caveat: a warning or caution.

121. cavil: to raise trivial objections; also, a trivial objection.

122. cavort: to bound or prance about.

123. celerity: quickness; swiftness.

124. censure: to criticize severely; also, an expression of disapproval.

125. chagrin: acute vexation or embarrassment.

126. chary: wary; cautious.

127. chicanery: the use of trickery to deceive.

128. chimera: a mental fabrication.

129. choler: anger.

130. chortle: to utter, or express with, a snorting, exultant laugh or chuckle.

131. circumambient: surrounding; encompassing.

132. circumlocution: the use of many words to express an idea that might be expressed by few.

133. circumspect: cautious; prudent.

134. clamber: to climb with difficulty, or on all fours.

135. clamour- an uproar, agitation

136. claque: a group of fawning admirers.

137. clarion: a kind of trumpet; also, loud and clear.

138. clemency: disposition to show mercy; also, an act of mercy.

139. cloy: to weary or become distasteful through excess.

140. coeval: existing during the same period of time; also, a contemporary.

141. cogent: appealing to the mind or to reason; convincing.

142. cohort: a group; also, a companion or associate.

143. collegial: characterized by or having authority vested equally among colleagues.

144. collude: to act in concert; to conspire.

145. comely: pleasing to the sight.

146. comity: a state of mutual harmony, friendship, and respect.

147. commensurate: equal in measure or extent; also, proportionate.

148. commodious: comfortably spacious; roomy.

149. complaisant: exhibiting a desire to please.

150. complement: something that fills up or completes.

151. compliment: A statement of praise.

152. compunction: anxiety or unease from guilt; also, a scruple.

153. concatenation: a chain; a succession.

154. concomitant: accompanying; attending.

155. concupiscence: lust.

156. conflagration: a large and destructive fire.

157. conflate: to bring together; to meld.

158. concur- to agree

159. confluence: a flowing or coming together.

160. confrere: a colleague, comrade, or intimate associate.

161. confute: to refute conclusively.

162. congeries: a collection

163. connubial: of or pertaining to marriage.

164. consanguineous: related by blood; descended from the same ancestor.

165. conspectus: a sketch, survey, or outline of a subject.

166. contemn: to scorn; to despise.

167. contemporaneous: originating, existing, or occurring at the same time.

168. contradistinction: distinction by contrast.

169. contravene: to act or be counter to.

170. contretemps: something inopportune or embarrassing

171. contrite: feeling or expressing grief and regret for sins or offenses.

172. contumely: rudeness compounded of haughtiness and contempt.

173. conurbation: an aggregation or continuous network of urban communities.

174. convivial: relating to feasting, drinking, and good company; festive

175. copasetic: very satisfactory.

176. copious: large in quantity; also, affording an abundant supply.

177. copse: a thicket of small trees.

178. coquette: a flirt.

179. corroborate: to strengthen or make more certain with other evidence.

180. coruscate: to give off or reflect bright beams or flashes of light.

181. cosmopolite: a cosmopolitan person.

182. cosset: to treat with excessive indulgence; to pamper.

183. coterminous: of equal extent or duration.

184. countenance: appearance or expression of the face; also, to tolerate or encourage.

185. countermand: to revoke (a former command) or recall by a contrary order.

186. countervail: to counteract; also, to offset.

187. coxcomb: a vain, showy fellow.

188. cozen: to deceive or obtain by deceit.

189. crabwise: sideways; also, in a cautiously indirect manner.

190. crapulous: marked by intemperance specially in eating and drinking.

191. credulous: inclined to believe too readily.

192. crepuscular: pertaining to twilight.

193. crux: the essential point or feature.

194. cudgel: a short heavy stick.

195. cum: with; along with; combined with.

196. cursory: hastily or superficially performed.

197. cynosure: a center of attention.

Learning is Fun!

l Pick at least 20 words from the given word list and write about a funny incident that tickles you.

For example, "As an abecedarian I was unable to cope with copious amount of work... I wanted to be a cynosure for everyone, but the concatenation of events and the Argus-eyed supervision of my superior led me into an abyss of despair....

Write now!

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Learning Outcomes :

- Increased familarity with roots, prefixes and suffixes.
- Mastery of high frequency words starting with 'a','b' and 'c'.
- Gradual development of interest in English as a language.

Contextual Vocabulary

Learning Objectives

• Mastering contextual vocabulary.

• A review of migratory words often used in English.

• Word list.

The second step....

• Understand the importance of context when looking at the individual words. For this purpose three passages pertaining to different tones are given.

• Go through the list of migratory words.

• Exercises are based on CAT pattern. Solve them.

• Go through the word list given in the end.

The cornerstone of mastering any language is to look at it in its cultural context. This definitely involves reading a lot. Since we are living in a world which is to a large extent flat as Thomas Friedman has averred, the cross-cultural interactions have made our task easier. The changing world involves ever changing language and communication patterns. J K Rowling coined a number of words in her highly popular books. The information technology industry has revolutionized the way we talk and write. Words therefore are incorporated into the language from every sphere of life. And we need to become more sensitive to how the meaning changes according to the context.

Given below are three passages, in which certain words are highlighted. Try to understand the meanings of these words in their context and write their meanings in the given space.

Passage - 1

This was a man of scarcely thirty years of age, handsome, tall, **austere**, or rather **melancholy**, in all his gestures and looks.

He was dressed in black velvet with jet trimmings; a white collar, as plain as that of the **severestPuritan**, set off the whiteness of his youthful neck; a small dark-colored mustache scarcely covered his curled, **disdainful** lip.

He spoke to people looking them full in the face without **affectation**, it is true, but without **scruple**; so that the brilliancy of his black eyes became so insupportable, that more than one look had sunk beneath his like the weaker sword in a single combat.

At this time, in which men, all created equal by God, were divided, thanks to **prejudices**, into two distinct castes, the gentleman and the commoner, as they are really divided into two races, the black and the white, - at this time, we say, he whose portrait we have just

sketched could not fail of being taken for a gentleman, and of the best class. To ascertain this, there was no necessity to consult anything but his hands, long, slender, and white, of which every muscle, every vein, became apparent through the skin at the least movement, and **eloquently** spoke of good descent.

This gentleman, then, had arrived alone at Cropole's house. He had taken, without hesitation, without reflection even, the principal apartment which the hotelier had pointed out to him with a **rapacious** aim, very praiseworthy, some will say, very **reprehensible** will say others, if they admit that Cropole was **a physiognomist** and judged people at first sight.

This apartment was that which composed the whole front of the ancient triangular house, a large **salon**, lighted by two windows on the first stage, a small chamber by the side of it, and another above it.

Now, from the time he had arrived, this gentleman had scarcely touched any **repast** that had been served up to him in his chamber. He had spoken but two words to the host, to warn him that a traveler of the name of Parry would arrive, and to desire that, when he did, he should be shown up to him immediately.

He afterwards preserved so **profound** a silence, that Cropole was almost offended, so much did he prefer people who were good company.

This gentleman had risen early the morning of the day on which this history begins, and had placed himself at the window of his salon, seated upon the **ledge**, and leaning upon the rail of the balcony, gazing sadly but **persistently** on both sides of the street, watching, no doubt, for the arrival of the traveler he had mentioned to the host.

In this way he had seen the little **cortege** of Monsieur return from hunting, then had again **partaken** of the profound **tranquility** of the street, absorbed in his own expectations.

Directions: Use the context to give the meaning or synonym of the highlighted words write them in the given space and verify with the answers given at the end of the exercise.

Austere _____

Melancholy_____

Severest_____

Puritan_____

Disdainful_____

Affectation_____

Scruple_____

Prejudices_____

Eloquently_____

Rapacious_____

Reprehensible _____

Physiognomist _____

Salon_____

Repast_____

Profound_____

Ledge_____

Persistently_____

Cortege_____

Partaken_____

Tranquility_____

Austere- severe, strict,	**Melancholy**-sad, depressed,	**Severest**- harsh
Puritan-	**Disdainful**-scornful	**Affectation**-mannerism
Scruple-qualm, regret	**prejudice**-discrimination	**Eloquently**-expressively
Rapacious-greedy	**Reprehensible**	**Physiognomist**
Salon	**Repast**-meal	**Profound**-deep
Ledge-bulge	**Persistently**-steadily	**Cortege**-
Partaken-participation		**Tranquility**-calm

Passage - 2

In Chanda's narrative, the agents of globalisation are of four broad types - traders, preachers, adventurers and warriors. The division is somewhat **arbitrary** and **whimsical** but it works well in the main. The first traders travelled to Çatalhöyük in Turkey in the 8th millennium BCE to buy **obsidian** for use as **scythes.** Eventually, trading routes opened all the way from Anatolia to Mesopotamia, India and China. Fast forward to the 21st century and you have call centres being opened in Senegal. If the Buddha's message was the first **manifestation** of global **evangelism**, Christian and Islamic preachers quickly established a worldwide presence as well. But Chanda reminds us that not all preaching is necessarily benign, as the messages beamed out by al-Qaeda and other extremists today are testimony to. Given the role played by conquest in shaping the political **contours** of the world at any moment in time, it is hardly surprising that warriors should be given their due for leaving an **indelible** imprint on globalisation. As for "adventurers", these are the explorers, scientists and migrants without whom the world would be a far less connected place than it is today. Throughout human history, the DNA of these change agents has remained constant. But in the modern world, the speed

with which they are able to effect change has undergone a profound transformation. And that speed, says Chanda, brings new opportunities as well as challenges and threats.

Directions: Use the context to give the meaning or synonym of the highlighted words write them in the given space and verify with the answers given at the end of the exercise.

Arbitrary_____

Whimsical_____

Obsidian_____

Scythes_____

Manifestation_____

Evangelism_____

Contours_____

Indelible_____

Arbitrary-chance	**Whimsical**- capricious	**Obsidian**-
Scythes	**Manifestation** -appearance	**Evangelism**
Contours		**Indelible**-permanent

Passage - 3

Somewhere in Leonard Woolf's memoirs he declares that everything he wrote was fit only to wrap fish and chips the next day - and I recall reading that, and saying to myself: "He can't believe that." But I wish others would **emulate** Woolf's **scepticism**. So many of the pieces we write pass unnoticed. To be sure Mein Kampf, or The Little Red Book, **warped** the minds of a generation; but we can be sure that the Clintons' output - both Bill's **copious** memoirs, and Hillary's children's book - were unread or else half-absorbed and then forgotten.

Humility becomes **polemicists**, or "committed" writers. We're not all Tom Paines - or Al Gores. Polemics of the calibre of Maynard Keynes' Economic Consequences of The Peace come round only once a generation. Can you recall what the last "advocacy documentary" you watched actually said? (Of course it is different with John Pilger's work - there you know what you're getting before it starts.) Rare are the fictions with messages that actually hit home. Much of the most **diligent** reporting we now treasure became important only years after the wars or injustices described in it were long over. This is true of most of George Orwell's work, which was read by pitifully few people when it was first published.

I'd like to put in an argument on behalf of work where the messages are more **ambiguous**, affecting attitudes over time. I like books or films that affect the consciousness slowly. They're powerful because they won't go away. You can remember them months or years later. A scene comes back, or a paragraph. At that moment you are able to **reclaim** everything they said from **oblivion**. That's the kind of writing and film-making I crave. But I'd like to know what others think. When did you last read or see something that changed your mind? How did it happen to you?

Directions: Use the context to give the meaning or synonym of the highlighted words write them in the given space and verify with the answers given at the end of the exercise.

Emulate_____

Skepticism_____

Warped_____

Copious_____

Polemicists_____

Diligent_____

Ambiguous_____

Reclaim_____

Oblivion_____

Emulate-try to be like	skepticism-doubt	warped-distorted
Copious-abundant	Polemicist- a writer who argues in opposition to others (especially in theology)	
Diligent-meticulous	ambiguous-vague	reclaim-regain
oblivion- nothingness		

It is obvious that meanings of words can be understood easily in a context. But in isolation these words become a puzzle. Therefore if you get into the habit of reading on a regular basis you will automatically come to know the words.

Migratory Words

English is noted for the vast size of its active vocabulary and its fluidity. English easily accepts terminology from other languages into common usage and imports new words which also often come into common usage. In fact this fluidity is so pronounced that a distinction often needs to be made between formal forms of English and contemporary usage.

The vocabulary of English has a number of borrowings from French, Latin, Spanish, Italian, and German.

A knowledge of the important few is **de rigueur** and shall definitely go a long way to help you in with respect to your reading comprehension (RC) and language interests.

Enjoy this collection of French / Latin / Spanish / Japanese / Italian / German words.

a. French words

Attaché: a diplomatic official attached to an embassy or legation

Avant garde: describes artist and writers who are unorthodox and untraditional

Beau monde: the fashionable world, high society

Bete noire: person or subject hated

Blasé: indifferent to or bored with life

Bonhomie: frank and simple good heartedness

Brouhaha: furore, uproar

Carte blanche: complete authority

Cause celebre: situation/case arousing attention and discussion

Coup de grace: blow which brings death

Coup d'etat: an unexpected action (of government) usually implying the use of force

Déjà vu: sense of having undergone

De rigueur: indispensable: something absolutely required

élan: enthusiastic vigor and liveliness.

Enfant terrible: a person given to unconventional conduct or indiscreet remarks.

En mass: in a mass; all together; as a group

En passant: by the way

Esprit de corps: morale

Fait accompli: n irreversible act done without warning

Faux pas: a social error

Haute couture: high fashion

Haute cuisine: excellent cooking

Haut monde: the elite

Joie de vivre: a delight in being alive

Laissez faire: policy of non interference

Mélange: a mixture; medley

Noblesse oblige: obligation imposed on high positions

Noveau riche: ostentatious person

Oeuver: the works of a writer, painter

Par excellence: highest degree

Passé: no longer fashionable

Per se: intrinsically

Pré·cis: a concise summary

Protégé: a person under the patronage, protection, or care of someone interested in his or her career or welfare.

Raison d'etre: reason for existence

Sang froid: self control

Savoir faire: instinctive ability to act appropriately

Savoir vivre: the art of knowing how to live elegantly

Soufflé: a light, fluffy baked dish made with egg yolks

Tete-a-tete: close conversation between two persons

Touché: used to acknowledge a hit in fencing or a successful criticism or an effective point in argument.

Tour de force: an exceptional achievement by an artist, author

Vis-à-vis: in regard to

Voilà: used to express success or satisfaction

Volte face: complete reversal

b. Latin words

Ad hoc: for the special purpose or end presently under consideration

A priori: self-evident, known independently

Ad hominem: directed at someone personally

Ad libitum: improvise (v), off-the-cuff

Ad nauseam: to the point of disgust

Alma mater: one's old school, college

Alter ego: one's other self

Alumnus: former student

Anno domini (ad): in the year of the lord

Ante meridiem (am): between midnight and noon

Annus mirabilis: year of wonders, disasters

Bona fide: genuine

Caput mortuum: worthless residue

Caveat: warning

Caveat emptor: disclaiming responsibility for buyer's disappointment

Ceteris paribus: other things being equal

De facto: functioning in reality

De jure: functioning in accordance with law

Ex gratia: referring to payment made as a favour

Flagrante delicto: in the very act of committing the offense

In situ: situated in the original, natural, or existing place or position

In toto: completely

In extremis: in extreme circumstances

Inter alia: among other things

Ipso facto: as an immediate consequence of an act

Magnum opus: a great work; crowning achievement or masterpiece

Mea culpa: an acknowledgment of guilt

Modus operandi: manner of working

Modus vivendi: a way of getting along with another person inspite of differences

Ne plus ultra: the highest point

Non grata: not welcome

Non sequitir: an illogical remark

Obiter dictum: an incidental remark

Persona grata: an acceptable person

Post hoc: after this; afterward

Prima facie: on first appearance; at first glance

Pro forma: according to form; as a matter of form

Pro rata: proportionately

Quid pro quo: something given for something received; a fair exchange

q. e. d. : that the point has been made

Sine die: with no fixed date; indefinitely

Sine qua non: an indispensable condition

Status quo: present condition

Sui generis: unique; in a class by himself/herself

Terra firma: firm or solid earth

Vox populi: public opinion

c. Spanish words

Adobe: sun-dried brick made of clay and straw

Alpaca: domesticated South American hoofed mammal, also a fabric

Armadillo: any of several burrowing, chiefly nocturnal mammals constituting the family Dasypodidae

Armada: any fleet of warships

Barricade: a defensive barrier

Bonanza: a huge profit

Bravado: a pretentious, swaggering display of courage

Caballero: gentleman

Cannibal: a person who eats human flesh

Coyote: a small wolf like carnivorous animal

Desperado: a bold reckless criminal

Embargo: an order of a government prohibiting the movement of merchant ships into or out of its ports.

Enchilada: tortilla with meat filling baked in tomato sauce seasoned with chilly

Fiesta: festival

Incommunicado: without contact with outside world

Junta: military council / government.

Mesa: a land formation that is less extensive than a plateau

Peccadillo: small error

Siesta: afternoon nap

Taco: a crispy fried tortilla

Tornado: a violently destructive windstorm occurring over land

Tortilla: a thin, round, unleavened bread prepared from cornmeal

Vigilante: any person who takes the law into his or her own hands

d. Japanese words

Bonsai: growing miniature plants

Geisha: young woman who accompanies and entertains men

Judo: a method of defending oneself or fighting without the use of weapons based on jujitsu but differing from it in banning dangerous throws and blows and stressing the athletic or sport element.

Jujitsu: a method developed in Japan of defending oneself without the use of weapons by using the strength and weight of an adversary to disable him

Hara kiri: suicide

Kamikaze: suicide pilot (World War II)

Karaoke: an act of singing along to a music video, esp. one from which the original vocals have been electronically eliminated

Kimono: a loose, wide-sleeved robe, fastened at the waist with a wide sash, characteristic of Japanese costume

Mikado: Japanese emperor:

Samurai: warrior

Sayonara: goodbye

Soy: a source of oil; used for forage and soil improvement and as food

Sumo: a form of wrestling in Japan in which a contestant wins by forcing his opponent out of the ring

Sushi: cold boiled rice moistened with rice vinegar, usually shaped into bite-size pieces and topped with raw seafood

Tsunami: an unusually large sea wave produced by a seaquake or undersea volcanic eruption.

Zaibatsu: small group (of families) controlling Japanese industries

e. Italian words

Bravura: a show of daring

Cappuccino: a hot beverage consisting of espresso coffee and steamed milk

Carabiniere: policeman

Cognoscenti: person with expert knowledge

Ciao: Goodbye

Cupola: a light structure on a dome or roof

Dilettante: amateur of dabbler

Embroglio: violent; embarrassing quarrel

Espresso: a strong coffee prepared by forcing live steam under pressure

Fresco: the art or technique of painting on a moist, plaster surface with colors ground up in water or a limewater mixture.

Lingua franca: a common language

Linguini: a type of pasta in long, slender, flat strips

Prima donna: leading female singer at an opera

Soprano: the uppermost part or voice, a singer with such a voice

Sotto voce: in a low, soft voice so as not to be overheard

Spumante: any sparkling wine

Stucco: an exterior finish for masonry or frame walls

Virtuoso: an expert performer

Zucchini: a variety of summer squash that is shaped like a cucumber and that has a smooth, dark-green skin

f. German words

Angst: a feeling of anxiety

Blitzkrieg: sudden attack

Bundt: a cake

Dachshund: a German breed of dogs having short legs

Delicatessen: a store selling foods already prepared or requiring little preparation for serving

Ersatz: artificial

Feldspar: a group of minerals

Fraulein: lady

Kaput: totally ruined

Kitsch: something that appeals to popular or low brow taste and is often of poor quality.

Knackwurst: a short, thick, highly seasoned sausage

Lager: a beer stored from six weeks to six months for aging before use.

Liverwurst: a sausage made with a large percentage of liver

Quartz: colorless glass made of almost pure silica, also a hard glossy mineral consisting of silicon dioxide in crystal form

Schuss: a fast straight downhill run in skiing.

Strafe: punish

Wunderkind: prodigy

Zeppelin: a rigid, cylindrical airship

Some Phobias and Manias.

Phobias

Fear of	Phobia
air	aerophobia
animals	zoophobia
beauty	callophobia
birth	genophobia
blood	hematophobia
burglars	scelerophobia
burial alive	taphephobia
change	neophobia
childbirth	maleusiophobia
children	pedophobia
colours	chromophobia
crowd	ochlophobia
darkness/night	nyctophobia
death	thanatophobia
depth	bathophobia

Fear of	Phobia
disease	pathophobia
doctors	latrophobia
enclosed spaces	Claustrophobia
ghost	phasmophobia
hand	chirophobia
hair	trichophobia
heat	thermophobia
hell	stygiophobia
high places	acrophobia
horses	hippophobia
knives	aichmophobia
large things	megalophobia
light	photophobia
lightning	astrophobia
males	androphobia
medicine	pharmacophobia
mob	ochlophobia
motherhood	metrophobia
motion	kinesophobia

open spaces	agoraphobia
pain	agophobia; odynophobia
people	demophobia
poison	toxicophobia
poverty	peniophobia
red	erythrophobia
sex	genophobia
sexual intercourse	coitophobia
sinning	peccatophobia
sleep	hypnophobia
small things	microphobia
snake	ophidiophobia
solitude	autophobia; monophobia
sound	acousticophobia
stairs	climacophobia
stealing	kleptophobia
study	logophobia
sunlight	heliophobia
thieves	kleptophobia
thirteen (the number)	triksiaidekaphobia
water	hydrophobia
wealth	plutophobia
women	gynaephobia
work	ergophobia
writing	graphophobia

MANIAS

Pyromaniac:	has a passion for fire
Dipsomaniac:	has an uncontrollable compulsion to drink
Monomaniac:	has an obsession with one thing
Kleptomaniac:	has a compulsion to steal
Megalomaniac:	has delusions of grandeur, power
Nymphomaniac:	woman with compulsive, incessant sexual desire
Satyromaniac:	man with compulsive incessant sexual desire

Manic depressive:	has alternating moods of extreme depression and uncontrollable exaltation.
Schizophrenia:	a disorder charac-terised by loss of contact with the enviornment and by disintegration of per-sonality expressed as disorder of feeling, thought, perception and behaviour.
Melancholic:	has a fixed condition of despondency
Paranoic:	has delusions of persecutions
Oedipus complex:	a problem in'mama's boys' hostile to father and excessively devoted to mother.
Electra complex:	female version of oedipus complex, girl is hostile to mother and devoted to father.

• **Go through the given words... Highlighted words are `must know'.**

198. dapple: a small contrasting blotch; also, to mark with spots.

199. debauch: to corrupt by sensuality, intemperance, etc.; seduce.

200. defenestrate: to throw out of a window.

201. deign: to condescend.

202. delectation: great pleasure; delight.

203. deliquesce: to melt away or become liquid.

204. demagogue: a leader who obtains power by means of appeals to the emotions and prejudices of the populace.

205. denizen: an inhabitant.

206. denouement: the final resolution of the main complication of a literary or dramatic work.

207. deprecate: to disapprove of; also, to belittle.

208. depredation: an act of plundering or ravaging.

209. deride: to laugh at with contempt.

210. derogate: to deviate from expectation; also, to detract; also, to disparage.

211. descant: a discourse; also, to discourse.

212. desideratum: something desired.

213. diadem: a crown.

214. diaphanous: allowing light to pass through.

215. dictum: an authoritative statement.

216. diffident: bashful or unassertive.

217. diktat: an authoritative decree or order.

218. dilatory: given to, or marked by, procrastination or delay.

219. dilettante: an amateur; also, an admirer or lover of the fine arts.

220. discomfit: to disconcert; also, to thwart.

221. disconsolate: hopelessly sad; also, saddening; cheerless.

222. discrete: constituting a separate thing; also, consisting of distinct or unconnected parts.

223. discursive: digressive; rambling; also, marked by analytical reasoning.

224. disheveled: in loose disorder; disarranged.

225. disparate: fundamentally different; also, composed of dissimilar elements.

226. dissemble: to hide under a false appearance; also, to assume a false appearance.

227. dissimulate: to hide under a false appearance; also, to feign or pretend.

228. doff: to take off; to remove; also, to rid oneself of.

229. dolorous: marked by, causing, or expressing grief or sorrow.

230. dotage: feebleness of mind due to old age.

231. doughty: valiant; brave.

232. doyen: the senior member of a body or group.

233. draconian: excessively harsh; severe.

234. dudgeon: a state or fit of intense indignation.

235. ebullient: high-spirited.

236. eddy: a current running contrary to a main current or in a circular direction.

237. efface: to cause to disappear by rubbing out, striking out, etc.

238. effete: infertile; also, worn out; also, decadent, effeminate.

239. efficacious: producing, or capable of producing, a desired effect.

240. effrontery: shameless boldness; insolence.

241. effulgence: the state of being bright and radiant.

242. effusive: excessively demonstrative.

243. egregious: outrageously bad.

244. eke: to gain or supplement with great effort or difficulty.

245. eleemosynary: relating to charity; charitable.

246. emblazon: to display pompously; to decorate.

247. emolument: the wages or perquisites arising from office, employment, or labor.

248. en masse: all together; as a whole.

249. encumbrance: a burden, impediment, or hindrance.

250. enervate: to weaken.

251. enjoin: to direct or impose with authority; also, to forbid.

252. enmity: hatred; ill will.

253. ennui: a feeling of weariness and dissatisfaction arising from lack of interest.

254. ensorcell: to enchant; to bewitch.

255. entreat: to ask for or request earnestly.

256. enunciate: to utter articulately; also, to state or set forth precisely or systematically.

257. ephemeral: short-lived.

258. ephemeron: something short-lived.

259. epigone: an inferior imitator.

260. equanimity: calmness; composure.

261. equipoise: equilibrium; also, counterbalance.

262. equivocate: to be deliberately ambiguous or unclear.

263. eremite: a hermit.

264. ergo: therefore; consequently.

265. errant: wandering; deviating from an appointed course, or from a direct path; roving.

266. eructation: the act of belching; a belch.

267. erudite: characterized by extensive reading or knowledge.

268. eschew: to shun; to avoid.

269. euphonious: pleasing or sweet in sound.

270. evanescent: fleeting.

271. evince: to show in a clear manner.

272. exacerbate: to aggravate; to make worse.

273. excoriate: to express strong disapproval of; also, to flay.

274. excrescence: something growing out from something else; also, a disfiguring or unwanted part.

275. exculpate: to clear from alleged fault or guilt.

276. exegesis: exposition; explanation.

277. exemplar: an ideal model or type.

278. exigent: requiring immediate aid or action; also, demanding.

279. exiguous: extremely scanty.

280. expatiate: to speak or write at length.

281. expeditious: characterized by speed and efficiency.

282. expiate: to make amends for; to atone for.

283. explicate: to explain.

284. expropriate: to deprive of possession; also, to transfer (property) to oneself.

285. extant: still existing.

286. extemporaneous: composed, performed, or uttered on the spur of the moment.

287. extempore: without premeditation or preparation.

288. extirpate: to eradicate; to destroy.

289. extol: to praise.

290. extraneous: coming from the outside; also, not essential; also, irrelevant.

291. extricate: to free or release from a difficulty or entanglement.

292. facetious: playfully jocular; humorous.

293. facile: easily done or performed.

294. faction: a usually contentious group or party; also, internal dissension.

295. factious: addicted to form parties and raise dissensions.

296. factotum: a person employed to do all kinds of work.

297. fait accompli: an accomplished and presumably irreversible deed or fact.

298. farrago: an assortment; a medley.

299. fatuous: inanely foolish; stupid; also, llusory.

300. fealty: fidelity; allegiance; faithfulness.

301. febrile: feverish.

302. fecund: fruitful; prolific.

303. felicitous: apt or appropriate; also, delightful.

304. fetid: stinking.

305. fetter: a restraint; also, to impose restraints on.

306. fettle: a state or condition of fitness, order, or mind.

307. fey: possessing or displaying a strange and otherworldly aspect or quality.

308. fiat: an arbitrary or authoritative command or order.

309. fiduciary: relating to the holding of something in trust for another.

310. fillip: a snap; also, a stimulus.

311. firmament: the sky; the heavens.

312. flibbertigibbet: a silly, flighty, or excessively talkative person.

313. flippant: showing inappropriate levity; pert.

314. florid: flushed with red; also, excessively ornate.

315. flummery: mumbo jumbo; nonsense.

316. flummox: to confuse; to perplex.

317. forcible: effected by force used against resistance; also, powerful.

318. forlorn: sad and lonely because deserted, abandoned, or lost.

319. fortuitous: happening by chance.

320. frangible: capable of being broken; easily broken.

321. frisson: a brief moment of intense excitement.

322. fructuous: fruitful; productive.

323. fugacious: lasting but a short time.

324. fulminate: to issue or utter verbal attacks or censures.

325. fulsome: offensive from excess of praise.

326. fungible: interchangeable.

327. furbelow: something showy or superfluous.

328. furtive: obtained or characterized by stealth; sly; secret; stealthy.

329. fustian: pompous or pretentious language.

330. gainsay: to contradict; to deny.

331. galumph: to move in a clumsy manner or with a heavy tread.

332. galvanic: pertaining to a direct current of electricity; also, having the effect of an electric shock.

333. gambol: to dance and skip about in play.

334. garrulous: talkative; also, wordy.

335. gastronome: a lover of good food and drink.

336. gauche: lacking social polish; tactless.

337. gelid: extremely cold; icy.

338. genial: sympathetically cheerful and cheering; kindly.

339. genuflect: to bend the knee, as in worship; also, to grovel.

340. germane: appropriate or fitting; relevant.

341. gewgaw: a trinket; a bauble.

342. glabrous: without hairs or projections; smooth.

343. gloaming: twilight; dusk.

344. gluttonous: a behaviour of extreme indulgence in eating and drinking.

345. gourmand: one who enjoys good food in great quantities.

346. grandiloquent: lofty in style.

347. gravid: pregnant.

348. gravitas: high seriousness.

349. gregarious: seeking and enjoying the company of others.

350. gustatory: pertaining to the sense of taste.

Learning Outcomes :

- Realization of the importance of contextual vocabulary.
- Mastery of a few more words in alphabetical order.
- Exposure to relevant variety of questions in English.
- Developing the skill of noticing and guessing the meaning of words in their context.
- Mastering a list of migratory words, manias and phobias.
- Assess yourself.

Thematic Vocabulary

Learning Objectives

• Theme based word lists

• Assess yourself tests

• An exhaustive words list

Third step...

• Pay attention to words which frequently appear in a particular context as far as theme/mood/context is concerned.

• Use the given word lists and write about topics which you find interesting.

Networking of words is a great idea when it comes to building up your vocabulary. Words pertaining to a particular mood/idea/theme are easier to link and remember in a particular context.

Word Clusters

In this chapter words are clustered based on their usage. These clusters can help you memorise the words easily and also help you in identifying the shades of meanings. Use these clusters to recollect the meanings, and if words seem alien to you, go back to the word lists and flash cards.

Physical / Mental Conditions

Physical

1. Infirmity **2.** Ambulatory

3. Effeminate **4.** Dyspeptic

5. Malignant **6.** Paroxysm

7. Canker **8.** Impotence

9. Ambidextrous **10.** Emetic

11. Virulent **12.** Jaded

13. Emaciate **14.** Emasculate

15. Debility **16.** Effete

17. Anorexic

Mental

1. Enervate **2.** Deranged

3. Paranoid **4.** Imbecility

5. Morbid **6.** Demented

7. Sadism **8.** Masochism

9. Hypochondria **10.** Hallucination

11. Kleptomania

States of Being

1. Indolence **2.** Dormancy

3. Dispirited **4.** Ecstatic

5. Misanthrope **6.** Misogynist

7. Misandrogyne **8.** Enamoured

9. Consternation **10.** Infallible

11. Abeyance **12.** Callow

13. Blasé **14.** Ennui

15. Perennial **16.** Pervasive

17. Ubiquitous **18.** Plenitude

19. Confounded **20.** Bedlam

21. Imbroglio **22.** Embryonic

23. Gestation **24.** Inchoate

25. Decrepit **26.** Derelict

27. Discomfiture **28.** Gauche

29. Abject **30.** Aberration

31. Despondent **32.** Languor

33. Maladroit **34.** Precarious

35. Ignoble

Emotions / Feelings / Behaviour

1. Abashed **2.** Abhor

3. Loathe **4.** Chagrin

5. Averse **6.** Disconcerted

7. Diffident **8.** Euphoria

9. Penitent **10.** Poignant

11. Abominate **12.** Conciliatory

13. Empathy **14.** Vicarious

15. Lugubrious **16.** Ignominious

17. Ecstasy

Anger / Insult

1. Invidious **2.** Vex

3. Harangue **4.** Vilify

5. Blaspheme **6.** Malign

7. Belittle **8.** Reprimand

9. Diatribe **10.** Tirade

11. Raillery **12.** Profanity

13. Vituperative **14.** Slander

15. Disparage **16.** Infuriate

17. Defame

Friendly

1. Affable **2.** Winsome

3. Genial **4.** Amiable

5. Amicable

Sizes

1. Gargantuan **2.** Miniscule

3. Behemoth **4.** Copious

5. Magnanimous **6.** Cornucopia

Attitudes / Ideology

Positive

1. Benevolence **2.** Chivalry

3. Altruism **4.** Gregarious

5. Magniloquent **6.** Indomitable

7. Jocund **8.** Conscientious

9. Indefatigable **10.** Fortitude

11. Deferential **12.** Discreet

13. Enterprising **14.** Assiduous

15. Bubbly **16.** Buoyant

17. Ebullient **18.** Jaunty

19. Probity **20.** Stoic

21. Tenacious **22.** Pragmatic

Negative

1. Malevolence **2.** Defiant

3. Bombastic **4.** Belligerent

5. Bellicose **6.** Fastidious

7. Temerity **8.** Skullduggery

9. Quixotic **10.** Carping

11. Impertinent **12.** Captiousness

13. Pugnacious **14.** Derogatory

15. Derision **16.** Nonchalant

17. Remiss **18.** Furtive

19. Wily **20.** Duplicitous

21. Lassitude **22.** Lackadaisical

23. Jingoism **24.** Truculent

25. Obdurate **26.** Intransigent

27. Intractable **28.** Lascivious

29. Libertine **30.** Licentious

31. Salacious **32.** Turpitude

33. Parochial **34.** Brash

35. Bumptious **36.** Callous

37. Hubris **38.** Capricious

39. Disdainful **40.** Imperious

41. Narcissistic **42.** Supercilious

43. Fatalistic **44.** Consummate

45. Heretic **46.** Iconoclastic

47. Maverick **48.** Invidious

49. Officious **50.** Presumptuous

51. Cagey **52.** Insouciant

Ideology

1. Nepotism **2.** Sectarianism

3. Hedonism **4.** Nihilism

5. Plutocracy **6.** Gerontocracy

7. Oligarchy

Appearances

1. Alluring **2.** Appealing

3. Captivating **4.** Comely

5. Glacial **6.** Pulchritude

7. Exquisite **8.** Gaunt

9. Shabby **10.** Haggard

11. Dappled **12.** Habiliment

13. Garish **14.** Baroque

15. Demeanour **16.** Pallid

17. Grotesque

Food and Drink

1. Epicure **2.** Gastronomy

3. Quaff **4.** Rancid

5. Masticate **6.** Carafe

7. Gourmand **8.** Gourmet

9. Gluttony **10.** Potable

11. Palatable **12.** Dipsomaniac

13. Edible **14.** Insalubrious

Actions

Positive

1. Augment **2.** Ameliorate

3. Assuage **4.** Acclamation

5. Approbation **6.** Exonerate

7. Expiate **8.** Accolade

9. Placate **10.** Bolster

11. Exalt **12.** Exult

13. Expurgate **14.** Commiserate

15. Bonhomie **16.** Solicit

17. Calisthenics **18.** Edify

19. Cajole **20.** Remonstrate

21. Accoutre

Negative

1. Baffle **2.** Obfuscate

3. Traduce **4.** Attenuate

5. Abort **6.** Collude

7. Connive **8.** Abet

9. Rancour **10.** Excoriate

11. Fabricate **12.** Calumny

13. Balk **14.** Dawdle

15. Chide **16.** Pillage

17. Abnegate **18.** Ravage

19. Immolate **20.** Debunk

21. Capitulate **22.** Impeach

23. Impede **24.** Regale

25. Lacerate **26.** Beleaguer

27. Addle **28.** Rankle

29. Pander **30.** Debauch

31. Knavery

Neutral

1. Alleviate **2.** Absolve

3. Accede **4.** Junket

5. Imbibe

Monetary

1. Penury **2.** Penurious

3. Niggardly **4.** Thrifty

5. Insolvent **6.** Alimony

7. Pauper **8.** Pecuniary

9. Exorbitant **10.** Accrual

11. Profligate **12.** Misappropriate

13. Embezzlement **14.** Impecunious

15. Lucrative **16.** Affluent

17. Indigent **18.** Acquisitive

Spending habits

Spending too much

1. Extravagant **2.** Spendthrift

3. Prodigal **4.** Wastrel

5. Squanderer **6.** Improvident

Miserly folks

1. Stingy **2.** Parsimonious

3. Niggardly **4.** Skinflint

5. Scrooge **6.** Mingy

7. Austere **8.** Abstemious

9. Frugal **10.** Provident

War and Crimes

1. Patricide **2.** Parricide

3. Genocide **4.** Regicide

5. Renegade **6.** Delinquent

7. Peccadillo **8.** Incarcerate

9. Internecine **10.** Decapitate

Religious Words

1. Consecrate **2.** Proselytize

3. Impious **4.** Excommunicate

5. Agnostic **6.** Atheist

7. Pontificate

Practice Exercise

Read the following passage and underline all the words from the text that would fit into the word clusters given below the text. Classify the words into the appropriate clusters. The first few have been done for you. Fit in as many words as you can.

When someone asks me what business I am in, I am seized with embarrassment: I blush and stammer, I, who am otherwise known as a man of poise. I envy people who can say: I am a bricklayer. I envy barbers, bookkeepers, and writers. All these professions speak for themselves. They need no lengthy explanation, while I am forced to reply to such questions: I am a laugher. Then I am always asked, "Is that how you make your living?" Truthfully I must say, "Yes." I actually do make a living at my laughing, and a good one, too. My laughing is - commercially speaking - much in demand. I am a good laugher, experienced. No one else laughs as well as I do. No one else has such command of the fine points of my art. For a long time, in order to avoid tiresome explanations, I called myself an actor. My talents in the field of mime and speech are small, so I felt this title to be too far from the truth. I love the truth, and the truth is: I am a laugher. I am neither a clown nor a comedian. I do not make people gay, I portray gaiety: I laugh like a Roman emperor, or like a sensitive schoolboy. I am as much at home in the laughter of the **17**th century as in that of the **19**th. When occasion demands, I laugh my way through all the centuries, all classes of society, all categories of age. It is simply a skill I have acquired, like the skill of being able to repair shoes. In my breast, I harbor the laughter of America, the laughter of Africa, white, red, yellow laughter. For the right fee, I let it peal out in accordance with the director's requirements. I have become indispensable. I laugh on records. I laugh on tape. Television directors treat me with respect, I laugh mournfully, moderately, hysterically. I laugh like a streetcar conductor or like a clerk in the grocery; laughter in the morning, laughter in the evening, nighttime laughter, and the laughter of twilight. In short: Wherever and however laughter is required -I do it. It need hardly be pointed out that a profession of this kind is tiring, especially as I have also -this is my specialty - mastered the art of infectious laughter. This has also made me indispensable to third - and fourth - rate comedians, who are scared - and with good reason - that their audiences will miss their punch lines. I spend most evenings in nightclubs. My job is to begin to laugh during the weaker parts of the program. It has to be carefully timed. My hearty, loud laughter must not come too soon, but neither must it come too late. It must come just at the right spot. At the pre-arranged moment, I burst out laughing. Then the whole audience roars with me,
and the joke is saved. But as for me, I drag myself exhausted to the checkroom. I put on my overcoat, happy that I can go off duty at last. At home, I usually find telegrams waiting for me: "Urgently require your laughter. Recording Tuesday," and a few hours later I am sitting in an overheated express train bemoaning my fate. I need scarcely say that when I am off duty or on vacation I have little desire to laugh. The cowhand is glad when he can forget the cow. Carpenters usually have doors at home that don't work or drawers that are hard to open. Candy makers like sour pickles. Butchers like pastry, and the baker prefers sausage to breads. Bullfighters raise pigeons for a hobby. Boxers run pale when their children have nosebleeds: I find all this quite natural, for I never laugh off duty. I am a very solemn person, and people consider me - perhaps rightly so - a

pessimist. During the first years of our married life, my wife would often say to me: "Do laugh!" Since then, she has come to realize that I cannot grant her this wish. I am happy when I am free to relax my tense face muscles in a solemn expression. Indeed, even other people's laughter gets on my nerves. It reminds me too much of my profession. So our marriage is a quiet, peaceful one. Now my wife has also forgotten how to laugh. Now and again I catch her smiling, and I smile, too. We speak in low tones. I hate the noise of the nightclubs, the noise that sometimes fills the recording studios. People who do not know me think I am taciturn. Perhaps I am, because I have to open my mouth so often to laugh. I go through life with a calm expression. From time to rime, I permit myself a gentle smile. I often wonder whether I have ever laughed. I think not. My brothers and sisters have always known me for a serious boy. So I laugh in many different ways, but my own laughter I have never heard.

Physical / Mental Conditions

blush, stammer

_____

_____

_____

State of Being

embarrassment

_____

_____

_____

Emotion/ Feeling/ Behaviour

envy

_____

_____

_____

Attitudes/ Ideologies

_____

_____

_____

Appearances

poise

_____

_____

_____

Word list continues...

351. habitué: one who habitually frequents a place.

352. hagiography: biography of saints; also, idealizing or idolizing biography.

353. halcyon: peaceful; undisturbed; happy.

354. hale: free from disease and weakening conditions; healthy.

355. harangue: a speech addressed to a public assembly; also, a noisy or pompous speech.

356. harbinger: a precursor; one that presages what is to come.

357. hardscrabble: barren, marginal; also, marked by poverty.

358. harridan: a scolding, vicious woman.

359. hauteur: haughtiness; arrogance.

360. hector: to bully or harass.

361. hermitage: a secluded residence; a retreat.

362. heterodox: holding unorthodox opinions.

363. heterogeneous: consisting of dissimilar elements.

364. hinterland: backcountry.

365. hirsute: covered with hair or bristles.

366. histrionic: theatrical.

367. hoi polloi: the common people; the masses.

368. homily: a sermon or lecture; also, an inspirational saying or a platitude.

369. hortatory: serving to encourage or incite.

370. hubris: overbearing pride or presumption.

371. hullabaloo: a confused noise; uproar.

372. idyll: a poem or prose work depicting rural or pastoral life; also, a carefree episode or experience.

373. ignoble: not noble.

374. ignoramus: an ignorant person; a dunce.

375. imbroglio: a complicated and embarrassing state of things.

376. **imbue:** to dye; to instill profoundly.

377. **immolate:** to kill or destroy, often by fire

378. **immure:** to enclose within or as if within walls.

379. **impassible:** incapable of suffering; also, unfeeling or not showing feeling.

380. **impassive:** devoid of emotion; also, showing no emotion.

381. **impecunious:** habitually without money; poor.

382. **impervious:** impenetrable; also, not capable of being affected.

383. **implacable:** incapable of being pacified.

384. **importunate:** troublesomely urgent.

385. **imprecation:** a curse.

386. **impregnable:** able to resist attack.

387. **imprimatur:** approval or sanction.

388. **improvident:** lacking foresight; negligent; thoughtless.

389. **impugn:** to call in question; to make insinuations against.

390. **inchoate:** partly but not fully in existence or operation.

391. **incipient:** beginning to exist or appear.

392. **inclement:** harsh; severe — especially said of the weather.

393. **incommunicado:** without means or right to communicate.

394. **incongruous:** lacking in harmony.

395. **inculcate:** to teach and impress by frequent repetition or instruction.

396. **indelible:** incapable of being removed or erased.

397. **indigence:** extreme poverty.

398. **indolent:** lazy; inactive.

399. **indomitable:** incapable of being subdued or overcome.

400. **indurate:** to make hard; to harden.

401. **ineffable:** incapable of being expressed.

402. **ineffectual:** without effect; weak; useless.

403. **ineluctable:** impossible to avoid or evade.

404. **inexorable:** unyielding; relentless.

405. **ingénue:** a naive girl or young woman, or an actress representing such a person.

406. ingenuous: demonstrating childlike simplicity; also, open; frank.

407. inhere: to be inherent.

408. inimical: unfriendly; unfavorable.

409. innocuous: harmless; also, unlikely to offend or provoke.

410. inscrutable: difficult to fathom or understand.

411. insouciant: Marked by blithe unconcern; nonchalant.

412. insuperable: incapable of being passed over, surmounted, or overcome.

413. internecine: destructive; especially, mutually destructive; also, relating to conflict within a group.

414. interregnum: the interval between two reigns; also, any breach of continuity in an order.

415. interstice: a space between things or parts.

416. intransigent: uncompromising.

417. intrepid: fearless; bold.

418. introspection: the act or process of self-examination; reflection.

419. inure: to make used to; also, to take or have effect.

420. invective: insulting or abusive language.

421. inveigh: to rail (against some person or thing).

422. inveigle: to persuade or obtain by ingenuity or flattery.

423. inveterate: deep-rooted; of long standing.

424. invidious: tending to provoke envy or ill will.

425. iota: a very small quantity or degree.

426. irascible: easily provoked to anger.

427. irenic: promoting peace.

428. itinerant: traveling from place to place.

429. jejune: lacking in nutritional value; also, immature; also, dull.

430. jeremiad: a doleful story; also, a dolorous or angry tirade.

431. jocular: given to or characterized by joking.

432. jocund: light-hearted; mirthful.

433. jovial: merry; joyous; jolly.

434. juxtaposition: the act or an instance of placing in nearness.

435. **ken:** perception, view; especially, reach of sight or knowledge.

436. **labile:** open to change; apt or likely to change.

437. **lachrymose:** given to causing tears.

438. **lackadaisical:** lacking spirit or liveliness.

439. **laconic:** using or marked by the use of a minimum of words.

440. **lacuna:** a blank space; a missing part.

441. **lambaste:** to scold sharply; also, to beat.

442. **lambent:** playing on the surface; flickering.

443. **land of Nod:** sleep.

444. **languid:** lacking vigor or force.

445. **languor:** lack of energy or vitality.

446. **lapidary:** of or pertaining to stone cutting; also, terse or refined in expression.

447. **largess:** generous giving; also, gifts of money or other valuables.

448. **lascivious:** lewd; lustful.

449. **lassitude:** lack of vitality or energy.

450. **latitudinarian:** having or expressing broad and tolerant views.

451. **laudable:** praiseworthy; commendable.

452. **legerdemain:** sleight of hand.

453. **leitmotif:** a dominant and recurring theme.

454. **levity:** frivolity.

455. **lexicon:** a dictionary; also, the vocabulary of a person, group, etc.

456. **libation:** the act of pouring a liquid as a sacrifice; also, a beverage.

457. **limn:** to draw or paint; also, to describe.

458. **lineament:** a distinguishing or characteristic feature.

459. **lionize:** to treat or regard as an object of great interest or importance.

460. **littoral:** on a coastal or shore region.

461. **logorrhea:** excessive talkativeness.

462. **loquacious:** very talkative.

463. **lubricious:** lewd; also, slippery or smooth.

464. **lucre:** money; profit.

450.latitudinarian: having or expressing broad and tolerant views.

451.laudable: praiseworthy; commendable.

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460.littoral: on a coastal or shore region.

461.logorrhea: excessive talkativeness.

462.loquacious: very talkative.

463.lubricious: lewd; also, slippery or smooth.

464.lucre: money; profit.

465.lucubration: nocturnal study.

466.luculent: clear; easily understood.

467.ludic: playful.

468.lumpen: those individuals cut off from their normal socioeconomic class.

Learning Outcomes :

- Mastering the words pertaining to different moods.
- Awareness regarding thematic presentation of words

In the realm of Eclectic Reading 4

Learning Objectives

• To become familiar with words and concepts from different subject areas with the help of Eclectic reading.

• Mastering a list of words.

• Learning with the help of tools, such as crosswords, writing a piece of prose etc.

Fourth Step...

1. To increase awareness of words related to particular subject areas. For example, Philosophy, Science, Psychology, Economics etc.

2. Master the `-isms' and the `-logies'.

3. Become acquainted with commonly used economic terms

4. Get involved in writing activity as a part of developing vocabulary

The MBA entrance examinations are known for giving tough reading comprehension passages from various subjects. Since these passages are of a high level of complexity, one has to develop a capacity to absorb words and the intricate structure of ideas expressed through them. To infer in an exact way, whatever the author implies, is extremely important to comprehend the reading comprehension passages and solve the questions. A poor Vocabulary may become a major obstacle for a student.

Therefore it is absolutely necessary to become aware of words from a variety of subject areas.

Given below are a few terms pertaining to Economics. Go through them and while reading the newspapers, try to locate them and understand their application in the economic context.

1.amortization - The process of fully paying off indebtedness by installments of principal and earned interest over a definite time.

2.annual percentage rate - APR The cost of credit on a yearly basis expressed as a percentage.

3.appraisal fee - The charge for estimating the value of property offered as security.

4.balance of payments -An accounting statement of the money value of international transactions between one nation and the rest of the world over a specific time period. The statement shows the sum of transactions of individuals, businesses, and government agencies located in one nation, against those of all other nations.

5. balloon payment- A large extra payment that may be charged at the end of a loan or lease.

6. Bank for International Settlements - BIS The BIS, located in Basle, Switzerland, was established in 1930 to administer the post-World War I reparations agreements. Since the 1960s, the BIS has evolved into an important international monetary institution, and has provided a forum in which central bankers meet and consult on a monthly basis. As an independent financial organization, the BIS performs a variety of banking, trustee, and agent functions, primarily with central banks.

7. Bonds. This term is taken from the early English word *band*, which means a fastening. The word *bond* implies that one is "bound" to repay an obligation.

8. Borrow. The word *borrow* derives from the Old English word *borg*, which means "pledge".

9. Budget. In the Middle Ages, French merchants carried their money in a *bougette*, or "little bag". The word borrows from the Latin word *bulga*, meaning "a leather bag". Within the bag, one's monetary resources were kept.

10. Business. *Business* originally applied to a person suspected of taking part in mischievous activity. Eventually, it related to any type of activity, and later still to a type of vocation.

11. Capital. This word comes ultimately from the Latin word for "head". The words *capital* and *cattle* come from this same root. Cattle were and are a source of wealth, and are typically measured in terms of how many "head of cattle". Wealth. Capital is one of the four requirements for production, the other three being land, labor and enterprise. "Financial capital" refers to money assets; "capital" by itself refers to buildings, machinery, productive technology, inventories, or any other investments like art, wine, or classic automobiles. On a farm, the land itself is not considered capital, but all the improvements to the land — that is, the farm — are. In other words, capital is humanly-made material. Another broad distinction is the one between circulating capital and fixed capital. The former consists of raw materials and labor effort that are sold as a product for profit. The latter consists of tools and machinery that yield profits without circulating.

12. Capital gains: An increase in the value of capital.

13. Capital gains tax: A tax on the increased value of capital at the moment of sale. Capital gains taxes are not levied between sales, or if a capital asset has lost value.

14. Capitalism: An economic system in which private individuals or corporations own and invest in the means of production.

15. Cartel. This word originates with the Latin word *charta*, which means "paper" and led to the English word for chart. Initially, the word referred to a written challenge to a fight. Later, it changed its meaning and referred to a libelous written statement. By the 1600s, it became an agreement associated with prisoner of war exchanges. Eventually, the word came to take on its current meaning, "an agreement in restraint of trade".

16. Cash. This word stems from the Latin word for "box", *cassa*. Originally, the French used this term to refer to the "moneybox" holding any *cash*, but later the term applied to the *cash* itself.

17. Coin. The word *coin* comes originally from the Latin word cuneus, meaning "wedge". The term came to apply to the wedge-shaped die that made these small pieces of money. Later, the word coin was applied to the stamped image on the money, but eventually referred to the money itself.

18. Commerce. This word is a combination of two Latin words:*com*, meaning "together"; and *merx*, meaning "goods".

19. Company. The Latin words *cum*, "with", and *panis*, "bread", combine to form the source of the word *company*. Initially, the word was relational, corresponding with the word *companion*. Eventually, it came to exist within a business context as well.

20. Consumer. The Latin term *consumo* means "eat up completely", which understandably led to our current use of the term *consumer*.

21. currency appreciation - An increase in the value of one currency relative to another currency. Appreciation occurs when, because of a change in exchange rates, a unit of one currency buys more units of another currency.

22. currency depreciation- A decline in the value of one currency relative to another currency. Depreciation occurs when, because of a change in exchange rates, a unit of one currency buys fewer units of another currency.

23. currency devaluation- A deliberate downward adjustment in the official exchange rate established, or pegged, by a government against a specified standard, such as another currency or gold.

24. currency revaluation-A deliberate upward adjustment in the official exchange rate established, or pegged, by a government against a specified standard, such as another currency or gold.

25. currency union-A group of countries that agree to peg their exchange rates and to coordinate their monetary policies so as to avoid the need for currency realignments.

26. Deficit- The amount each year by which government spending is greater than government income

27. Debt: 1) Something owed to someone else. 2) On a national level, the sum total that the government owes to the bearers of U.S. bonds. Not to be confused with the deficit, which is only the yearly total added to the debt. In other words, each year's deficit adds to the overall debt.

28. Deficit: The amount of annual government spending in excess of that year's tax receipts, which is paid for by going into debt. Not to be confused with the debt, which is the sum total of all deficits. Prior to the Great Depression, deficits and unbalanced budgets were considered a moral shortcoming. Keynes, however, proved that a certain amount of deficit spending is actually helpful for promoting economic growth and climbing out of recessions and depressions. In fact, the world has not seen a depression in six decades thanks to this insight

29. Deposit.*Deposit* is created by putting together two Latin words:*de*, a relatively common prefix that means "away"; and *positus*, meaning "placed".

30. Depression: An especially severe recession. Depressions suggest that fundamental corrections are occurring in the economy, much more so than in the normal fluctuations of the business cycle. Keynes believed that depressions were further distinguished by what he called the "liquidity trap." This occurred when people hoarded their money, refusing to spend, no matter how much the central bank tried to expand the money supply. In order to get the circulation of money moving again, Keynes advocated that government should do
what the people were unwilling to do: spend. Economists widely credit the defense spending of World War II for eliminating the Great Depression.

31. Economist. This important word is taken from the Greek word *oikonomia*, which means "house management". It originally applied to persons who were good administrators within a community, business or home.

32. economic growth- An increase in the nation's capacity to produce goods and services.

33. financial institution- An institution that uses its funds chiefly to purchase financial assets (loans, securities) as opposed to tangible property. Financial institutions can be classified according to the nature of the principal claims they issue. See also depository institution.

34. financial instrument- Any written instrument having monetary value or evidencing a monetary transaction.

35. fixed rate- A traditional approach to determining the finance charge payable on an extension of credit. A predetermined and certain rate of interest is applied to the principal. See also variable rate.

36. floating exchange rate system- The flexible exchange rate system in which the exchange rate is determined by the market forces of supply and demand without intervention.

37. foreign currency operations- Purchase or sale of the currencies of other nations by a central bank for the purpose of influencing foreign exchange rates or maintaining orderly foreign exchange markets. (Also called foreign-exchange market intervention.)

38. Finance.*Finance* derives from the Latin and Old French word for *fine*, which originally meant "end". The French word for *finance* came to mean both "payment" and "ending", but in the 18th century the English adapted it to mean "the management of money".

39. Laffer Curve: The purported relationship between tax rates and tax collections, as graphed by economist Arthur Laffer. Laffer held that when tax rates become too high, tax collections actually fall because people are discouraged from doing taxable activity, or they start cheating on their taxes. Thus, lowering the tax rate would have the paradoxical effect of raising tax collections. Laffer was hardly the first to think of this — Keynes had voiced similar sentiments — but Laffer was the first to get the idea publicized, thanks to his friendship with Robert Bartley, an editorialist for the *Wall Street Journal*. Economists generally agree that something like the Laffer Curve exists, but disagree sharply on how steep it is, or how high taxes have to become to start seeing falling revenues.

40. gross domestic product- GDP- The total value of a nation's output, income, or expenditure produced within a nation's physical borders.

41. gross national product - GNP- A country's total output of goods and services from all forms of economic activity measured at market prices for a calendar year.

42. gold exchange standard- A variant form of the gold standard under which a country pegged the value of its currency to the value of the currency of a country; country, e.g. sterling or dollars, which was itself on a gold standard. The international monetary regime in force between 1958 and 1970 is frequently described as a gold exchange standard system because of the wide use of the dollar, itself pegged to gold, as a reserve currency and as an accepted medium of exchange internationally.

43. gold standard- A monetary system in which currencies are defined in terms of a given weight of gold

44 liquidity - (1) The ability of a bank or business to meet its current obligations; (2) the quality that makes an asset quickly and readily convertible into cash.

45. long-term interest rates- Interest rates on loan contracts—or debt instruments such as Treasury bonds or utility, industrial, or municipal bonds—having maturities greater than one year. Often called capital market rates.

46. *Laissez-faire*: French for "leave it alone" or "let it be." This was the philosophy that government should not interfere with the actions of businessmen. It first appeared with the rise of the Physiocrats in 18th-century France, who were incensed with the regulations of Mercantilism. The 19th century saw the greatest era of *laissez-faire* in both Europe and America, with substantially lighter government by today's standards. However, laissez-faire waned as the industrial revolution proceeded, and by 1933, it fell discredited in the U.S., replaced by the policies of the New Deal. Modern conservatives have since replaced "laissez-faire" the term with "market economics" or "free enterprise."

47. Labor. This word comes from the Latin word *laborare*, which means "to be tired". Beginning with the Reformation, labor supposedly came to be regarded as a duty.

48. Manager. The word *manager* comes from the Italian word *maneggiare*, "to train horses", which derives from their word *mano*, meaning "hand".

49. Merger. The Roman word for "plunge" or "sink" is *mergo*.

50. Money. One of the responsibilities of the Roman goddess Juno was to warn the Romans of impending danger. In this capacity, she was called Juno Moneta, where the name *Moneta* derives from a Latin word meaning "warn". As a tribute to Juno, the Romans built a temple
in her honor on Capitoline Hill, which later became the place where coinage was kept. Becoming known also as the guardian of finances, the name *Moneta* would evolve into our word *money*.

51. money supply- The amount of money (coins, paper currency, and checking accounts) that is in circulation in the economy.

52. Monopoly. In Greek, the word *monopolion* means "the right to exclusive sale".

53. Revenue. The word *revenue* was created by combining the Latin words: *re*, which means "back"; and *venio*, which means "come".

54. Recession: Economists do not yet know the ultimate cause of recessions, but most accept John Maynard Keynes' description of them. In a healthy economy, there is a circular flow of money as my spending becomes part of your earnings, and your spending becomes part of my earnings. For various reasons, however, consumers may lose confidence in the economy, and start hoarding money. But your decision to hoard makes things harder on me; so I start hoarding as well, which only makes things harder on you. Although hoarding seems a rational strategy for *individuals*, it has disastrous consequences for the *group:* a full-blown recession. Keynes suggested that the way to return confidence to the economy is for the central bank to expand the money supply, putting more money in the hands of individuals, thus giving them more confidence to start spending again

55. Salary. The Latin word *salarium*, meaning "salt allowance", is the origin of the word salary. A necessary part of one's diet, Roman soldiers were supposedly given an allowance to buy salt as part of their income. In time, this word applied more generally to one's wages.

56. Securities. The Latin words *se* and *cura* combine to form this word. Translated literally, these words mean "without care".

57. Socialism. This term originates with the Latin word *socius*, which had the basic meaning of "sharing", but was also used to refer to a comrade, a sharer or an ally.

58. Stocks. *Stocks* originates from the Old English word *stocc*, a word for tree trunk. It implied that something was solid, or even safe.

59. Surplus. The word comes from two related French words: *sur*, which means "over"; and *plus*, which means "more".

60. Tariff. This word comes from an ancient Arabic term, *tarrif*, which means "notification".

61. Trade. When suppliers were less mobile, they walked between places where their goods were sold. The Old English word for "tread" is *trod*, and the root of the word *trade*.

Now let's move on to some `isms' and `logies'...

— Ologies

Companion

These days we tend to think of a companion as a friend or person who either accompanies or associates with another person, a comrade, or one who is hired to assist, live with, or travel with another person, such as a caregiver or a travel companion.

Originally, however, a companion was one with whom you shared bread, or a meal (cf, "break bread"). The word *companion* comes to us from Latin: com- ("together") + pan(is) ("bread"). This specific original meaning has since spread, become more general, to refer to any friend or associate with whom we spend time.

Hey friends! I guess you are on your way to becoming real good at erudition.

Here's some more stuff that will hone your vocabulary skills.

Enjoy!

(Terms depicting subject of study)

Term	Subject/study of
Aetiology	cause of diseases
Anthropology	mankind
Astrology	heavenly bodies
Cardiology	heart function and diseases
Carpology	fruits and seeds
Cetology	whales
Cartography	maps
Choreography	dance
Chronology	dates
Craniology	skulls
Criminology	crimes and criminals
Cryptology	codes
Dactylology	finger prints
Demography	population statistics
Dermatology	human skin
Endocrinology	glands
Entomology	insects
Epigraphy	ancient inscriptions
Etymology	word origins
Genealogy	ancestry
Gerontology	old age
Gynaecology	women's disorders
Haematology	blood
Herpetology	reptiles and amphibians
Histology	plant and animal tissue
Horology	time, timepieces
Hypnology	sleep
Ichthyology	marine life (fish)
Lexicography	writing of dictionary
Lexicology	dictionary
Lithology	rocks

Metaphysics	nature of existence,	truth and knowledge
Meteorology	weather	
Metrology	measurement	
Myology	muscles	
Obstetrics	birth of children	
Odontology	teeth	
Oenology	wines	
Oncology	cancer, tumors	
Ontology	nature of existence	

Term	Subject/study of
Ophiology	snakes
Ophthalmology	eyes
Ornithology	birds
Orology	mountains
Osteology	bones
Osteopathy	manipulating bones and muscles
Otolog	years
Paedology	children
Palaeography	old manuscripts
Palaeontology	fossils
Pathology	diseases
Pedagogy	teaching
Pedology	soils
Penology	prisonsand treatment of criminals

Pharmacology	drugs
Philology	languages
Physiology	life processes
Phytology	plants
Podiatry	feet
Polemology	wars
Potamology	rivers
Psephology	elections
Psychiatry	treatment of mental illness
Psychology	mind
Radiology	radiation

Term	Subject/study of
Seismology	earthquakes
Selenology	the moon
Speleology	caves
Topography	surface features of a region
Topology	shapes and surfaces
Toxicology	poison
Tribology	friction and lubrication
Zymology	fermentation

ISMS

Below is a collection of frequently encountered; a little abstruse words. A good familiarity will help.

1. Altruism: Unselfish concern for the welfare of others; selflessness.

2. Anachronism: Out of its proper time in history.

Ex: Rajesh Khanna type hairstyle is anachronistic at present.

3.Atavism: Recurrence in an organism of a trait or character, typical of an ancestral form usually due to genetic combination.

4. Atheism: God does not exist.

5. Chauvinism: Excessive devotion

An aggressive and unreasonable belief that your country is better than all others, Fanatical patriotism.

Also, the belief that women are naturally less important, intelligent or able than men.

6. Capitalism: A kind of economic system where one means of production and distribution are privately owned and primarily profit operated.

7. Cronyism: Favoritism shown to friends and associates without regard to their qualifications, as in political appointments.

8. Colonialism: The policy of country; maintaining foreign colonies for, especially economic exploitation.

9. Communism: System or a theory where the people/community as a whole are owners of all property.

10. Confucianism: Values as devotion to parents, family, organisation, friends were formulated by Confucius and introduced into Chinese religion.

11. Consumerism: Consumer is the king.

i. A movement advocating greater protection of the interests of the consumer.

ii. The theory that an increasing consumption of goods is economically beneficial.

iii. When too much attention is given to buying and owning things, attachment to materialistic values or possessions.

12. Dogmatism: Doctrine of inordinate opinionism, arrogant.

13. Empiricism: The view that experience, especially of the senses, is the only source of knowledge.

14. Eroticism: Sexual instincts and behaviour.

15. Fascism: Dictatorship/autocracy

16. Feudalism: A European political and economic system from 9th to about 15th century, based on the relation of lord to vassal held on condition of homage and service.

17. Hedonism: Pursuit of or devotion to pleasure, the belief that pleasure (especially pleasure of the senses) is the main aim of life.

18. Henotheism: Belief in one god without denying the existence of others.

19. Liberalism: The state of being a liberal; a philosophy advocating personal freedom for the individual, democratic forms of government, gradual reform in social and political institutions.

20. Masochism: A tendency to subject oneself to unpleasant or trying experiences.

21. Materialism:

(*i*) The belief that having money and possession is the most important thing in life.

(*ii*) The doctrine that matter is the only reality.

22. Narcissism: Excessive love or admira ion of oneself.

The word comes from Greek mythology according to which, Narcissus, a beautiful young man, fell in love with his own reflection in a pool. He died and was changed into a flower which bears his name.

23. Nihilism:

(*i*) Complete denial of social political and religious authorities and institutions.

(*ii*) (Philosophy) the belief that nothing has any value, especially that religion - moral principals have no value.

24. Fatalism: The doctrine that all events are predetermined by fate and thus cannot be changed by human beings.

25. Pacifism: The belief that wave and violence are always wrong.

26. Nepotism: Favouritism shown to relatives.

27. Relativism: All values or judgments are relative and differ according to circumstances, cultures and people.

28. Plagiarism: The act/policy of stealing and using (the ideas or writings of another) as one's own.

29. Puritanism: The belief that self - control and hard-work are important and that pleasure is wrong or unnecessary.

30. Realism: An inclination toward literal truth and pragmatism.

31. Sadism: Receiving pleasure from inflicting physical or psychological pain on others, deriving pleasure from cruelty.

32. Stoicism: Indifference to pleasure or pain; impassivity.

33. Secularism: Any kind of religions faith or worship should not enter into the functions of the state.

34. Surrealism: A 20th century art and literature movement related to art and literature in which discrete images and events were put together in a strange or impossible ways to express subconscious thoughts.

35. Voyeurism: Characteristic of a person who gets pleasure from furtively and habitually seeing people changing clothes/having sex.

Some more `isms'...

Anarchism: Political theory which denies the moral legitimacy of all forms of government and advocates the complete abolition of it.

Compatibilism: Also known as "soft determinism" and most famously championed by Hume, this theory holds that free will and determinism are compatible. Properly understood, according to Hume, freedom is not an *absolute* ability to have chosen differently *under exactly the same* inner and outer *circumstances*. Rather it is a *hypothetical* ability to have chosen differently *if* one had been differently psychologically disposed by some different beliefs or desires. Alternately, Hume maintains that free acts are not *uncaused* (or mysteriously *self-caused* as Kant would have it) but *caused* in the right way, i.e., by our *choices* as determined by our beliefs and desires, by our characters.

Computationalism: The hypothesis that the brain is a computer and thought is computation.

Cultural relativism: Moral theory that holds that what's good or bad or right or wrong varies from society to society depending on what each society says to be, or believes to be, good or bad or right or wrong.

Determinism: The view that every event has a cause and that everything in the universe is governed by causal laws. Since determinists believe that all events, including human actions, are predetermined, determinism is thought by "libertarians" and "hard determinists" to be incompatible with free will. *Hard determinists* deny there is free will on the grounds that everything is causally determined. *Libertarians* deny that everything is causally determined on the grounds that there is free will. So-called "soft determinists" follow Hume in holding determinism and free will (rightly understood) are *compatible*: free acts are not *uncaused* on compatibilist conceptions of freedom, they're just caused *in the right way*, by the agent's beliefs and desires.

Dualism: Any philosophical theory holding that the universe consists of, or can only be explained by, two independent and separate constituents or substances; according to *Cartesian dualism*, these are mind (thinking substance) & body (extended substance).

Epistemology: The theory of knowledge or branch of philosophy that studies how knowledge is gained, how much we can know, and what justification there is for what is known.

Ethical relativism: The view that what is morally permissible, obligatory, and forbidden differs among individuals or between cultures. According to ethical relativism nothing is absolutely *good* or *bad* or *right* or *wrong*: rather, relativists hold, what is *right* or *wrong* is so *for* a given individual or *within* a given culture or society: the underlying idea is that the individual or society's judging things right or wrong or good or evil makes them so *for* that individual or society.

Existentialism: Philosophical movement harking back to Kierkegaard and flowering most notably in the work of Sartre and Heidegger in the mid twentieth century. It maintains, roughly, that the thinking *subject*'s existence precedes its essence, and that our subjective existence, as thinkers, consequently is radically free, cannot be objectively construed, and is consequently incapable of any objective scientific characterization.

Idealism: The view that reality is fundamentally mental; that there is just one kind of substance (mind) or phenomena (thought); there is no such thing as matter; what we take to be material things are really, at bottom, mental. On Berkeley's view their *esse* is *percipi* - their being is being perceived.

Indeterminism: The view that there are events that do not have any cause; believers in absolute free will, for instance, hold that choices are not determined by any physiological or psychological causes whatever.

Induction: Reasoning or argumentation in which the truth of the premises does not guarantee the truth of the conclusion. Not all inductive reasoning "goes from particular to general" as is sometimes said. Though *inductive generalization* (of laws from particular instances) is, scientifically, perhaps the most important type of inductive reasoning (as stressed by Francis Bacon), reasoning from the past to future instances (i.e., from particulars to particulars) is also inductive and scientifically important; and there are other forms as well. Hume argued that induction has no rational or objective basis but only a subjective psychological one.

Instrumentalism: View that holds that while scientific theories are predictively useful ways of talking, they should not be thought to provide true descriptions of reality. Perhaps the most famous avowal of instrumentalism was Copernicus' advertisement of his heliocentric hypothesis as nothing more than an aid to astronomical calculation — a predictive instrument, not purporting to be a true description of astronomical realities.

Mechanism: Philosophical theory that denies "action at a distance" and holds, that natural systems, including living organisms, are complex machines. Descartes famously held this to be true of all nonhuman animals but not of human minds and their freely willed actions.

Monism: The theory that everything in the universe is composed of, or can be explained by or reduced to, one fundamental (type of) substance, energy, or force. In the modern era *materialists* take this one thing to be matter; *idealists* take the one fundamental (type of) thing to be mind.

Nihilism: The view that moral value (goodness or rightness) and disvalue (badness or wrongness) do not exist.

Nominalism: The view (held by Berkeley, among others) that general terms, such as "table," do not express or refer to general concepts, abstract ideas, or any sort of really existing universals; there are just individual words and the individual things they refer to.

Pantheism: The belief that God and the universe are identical; among modern philosophers, Spinoza is considered to be a pantheist. Among the ancients the Stoics were the most notable exponents of pantheism. According to Stoicism, the material universe is the Body of God, and the God's spirit or soul is the Mind (or *logos*) guiding and governing this universal body. In effect, universal Body and indwelling Mind together comprise the divine Person.

Platonism: Agreement with the views of Plato, especially with his assertion of the real existence of the "ideas" or "Forms".

Pluralism: The theory that reality is composed or can be explained in terms of two or more fundamental (types of) substance, energy, or force. In the modern era Cartesian dualism represents the most notable pluralist hypothesis. Among the ancients, the pluralism of Pythagorus and Democritus is usually contrasted to the monism of the Milesians (Thales, Anaximenes, Anaximander) and Eleatics (Parmenides, Miletus, Zeno).

Pragmatism: A theory of meaning first proposed by Charles Sanders Peirce according to which "the meaning of a concept is to be found in the practical outcomes of its adoption" and "what effects, which might have practical bearings, we conceive the object of our conception to have" are "the whole of our conception of the object." Pragmatist theories of knowledge and truth subsequently developed by William James, John Dewey and others are coherence theories in which beliefs are required to cohere, not just among themselves, but with practices.

Rationalism: The philosophic approach that holds that reality is knowable by the use of reason or thinking alone, starting with innate ideas, without recourse to observation or experience.

Romanticism: Artistic movement and philosophy of art opposed to neoclassicism and valuing subjective honesty or sincerity of emotional expression above adherence to formal constraints and objective standards of beauty or artistic correctness.

Scientific realism: View that holds that reality really is as science describes it or as science ultimately would describe it at the ideal end-point of inquiry.

Social constructivism: View marked by its rejection of the objectivity of truth, generally, and of scientific truth in particular. Constructivists hold that scientific laws, descriptions, and even observations are social constructs — products or projections of human cultures or communities. As such, they are thoroughly theory-laden and vary between cultures. Consequently scientific truth is neither objective nor universal.

Solipsism: The theory that one cannot know anything other than his or her own thoughts, feelings, or perceptions and, consequently, that we should deny - or a least strongly doubt - whether anything (such as other minds and material bodies) really exists outside our minds.

Subjective: Pertaining to thinking and experiencing or to things *as* thought and experienced.

Subjectivism: Moral theory that holds that what's good or bad or right or wrong varies from individual to individual depending on what each individual *believes* to be, good or bad or right or wrong.

Utilitarianism: A moral theory originally advanced by Jeremy Bentham according to which the moral character of an act — whether it's good or bad or right or wrong — is entirely determined by its consequences, and likening moral reasoning to economic calculation Utilitarians maintain the right course of action is always the one that has the most beneficial or least detrimental consequences overall, for all affected.

Activity

Match the given words with their meanings:

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column.

1	thermophobia	A	the science dealing with x-rays or nuclear radiation
2	atavism	B	pursuit of pleasure
3	criminology	C	branch of astronomy that deals with the nature and origin of the physical features of the moon
4	photophobia	D	recurrence of a trait in an organism
5	empiricism	E	fear of heat
6	selenology	F	study of crimes
7	cronyism	G	fear of light
8	radiology	H	writing of a dictionary
9	hedonism	I	experience is the only source of knowledge
10	lexicography	J	Favouritism shown to friends

Time Limit	Total Marks	Marks Obtained
2 minutes	10	

Word Power...

469. machination: a crafty scheme intended to accomplish some usually evil end.

470. maelstrom: a large, powerful whirlpool; also, a violent, disordered, or turbulent **state** of affairs.

471. magniloquent: lofty or grandiose in speech or expression

472. maladroit: awkward; unskillful; inept.

473. malaise: a condition of uneasiness or ill-being.

474.malapropism: the usually uninten-tionally humorous misuse of a word, especially by confusion with one of similar sound; also, an example of such misuse.

475. malapropos: unseasonable or unseasonably; inappropriate or inappropriately.

476. malediction: a curse.

477. malfeasance: wrongdoing, misconduct, or misbehavior.

478. malinger: to feign illness or inability.

479. malleable: capable of being shaped; also, adaptable.

480. malodorous: having a bad odor.

481. manse: a large and imposing residence.

482. manumit: to free from slavery or servitude.

483. martinet: a strict disciplinarian.

484. masticate: to chew.

485. maudlin: excessively sentimental.

486. mawkish: sickly or excessively sentimental.

487. megalomania: a mental disorder characterized by delusions of grandeur.

488. melange: a mixture.

489. mellifluous: flowing sweetly or smoothly.

490. menagerie: a collection of wild or unusual animals; also, a diverse group.

491. mendacious: untruthful; also, untrue.

492. mendicant: a beggar.

493. mephitic: foul smelling

494. Methuselah: an extremely old man.

495. métier: an occupation, especially in which one excels.

496. miasma: a thick vaporous atmosphere, often noxious.

497. microcosm: a smaller, representative system having analogies to a larger system.

498. mien: demeanor; also, aspect; appearance.

499. milieu: environment; setting.

500. militate: to have force or influence.

501.misprize: to despise; also, to under value

502. missive: a written message; a letter.

503. modicum: a small or token amount.

504. mollify: to reduce in intensity; to soothe; to soften.

505. monomania: obsession with a single subject.

506. mordant: biting; caustic; sarcastic.

507. mores: customs; habits; ways.

508.moribund: dying.

509. mountebank: a quack; also, a charlatan.

510. mulct: to defraud.

511. munificent: very generous.

512. nadir: the lowest point.

513. nascent: beginning to exist.

514. ne plus ultra: the acme; also, the most profound degree.

515. nebbish: a weak-willed, timid, or ineffectual person.

516. nefarious: wicked in the extreme.

517. neologism: a new word or expression; the use or creation of new words or expressions.

518.neophyte: a novice.

519. neoteric: recent in origin; new.

520. nepotism: favoritism shown to members of one's family.

521. nescience: lack of knowledge or awareness.

522. nimbus: a dark gray rain cloud; also, a halo, an aura.

523. nimiety: excess.

524. **noisome:** offensive or disgusting; also, harmful; unwholesome.

525. **nolens volens:** whether unwilling or willing.

526. **nonagenarian:** someone whose age is in the nineties.

527. **nonpareil:** having no equal.

528. **nosegay:** a bouquet of flowers.

529. **nostrum:** a questionable remedy.

530. **nugatory:** insignificant; also, ineffectual.

531. **numinous:** spiritual; holy.

532. **nuptial:** of or pertaining to marriage.

533. **obdurate:** hardened in feelings or in wrongdoing; unyielding.

534. **obfuscate:** to darken or obscure.

535. **objurgate:** to scold or rebuke sharply.

536. **oblation:** an offering.

537. **obloquy:** ill repute.

538. **obstreperous:** noisily and stubbornly defiant; also, boisterous.

539. **obviate:** to anticipate and dispose of or make unnecessary.

540. **odium:** intense hatred or dislike.

541. **officious:** meddlesome.

542. **omnipresent:** present in all places at the same time.

543. **oneiric:** pertaining to or suggestive of dreams.

544. **onus:** burden; also, blame; stigma.

545. **opportune:** suitable for a given purpose or occasion.

546. **opprobrium:** reproach mingled with contempt.

547. **orotund:** full in sound; also, bombastic.

548. **ossify:** to harden or to become bone.

549. **ostensible:** appearing to be true, but not necessarily so.

550. **ostentation:** excessive or pretentious display.

551. **ostracize:** to banish or expel.

552. **overweening:** overbearing; also, excessive.

553. **paean:** a song or other expression of praise or joy.

554. **paladin:** a champion of a cause.

555. **palaver:** idle talk; also, to talk idly.

556. **palindrome:** a word, verse, phrase, or sentence that reads the same backward or forward.

557. **palliate:** to extenuate; also, to relieve.

558. **pallor:** unusual or extreme paleness.

559. **palpable:** capable of being touched or felt.

560. **panacea:** a cure-all.

561. **panache:** dash or flamboyance in manner or style.

562. **pandemic:** affecting a whole people or a number of countries.

563. **panegyric:** an expression of formal or elaborate praise.

564. **Panglossian:** excessively or naively optimistic.

565. **panoply:** a splendid or impressive array.

566. **pantheon:** the collective gods of a people; also, a group of highly esteemed persons.

567. **paragon:** a model of excellence or perfection.

568. **pari passu:** at an equal pace or rate.

569. **paulay:** a conference or discussion; also, to confer.

570. **parlay:** fraught with danger; hazardous.

571. **paroxysm:** an outburst; a fit.

572. **parse:** to analyze.

573. **parsimonious:** frugal to excess.

574. **parvenu:** an upstart; one newly risen in class or economic status.

575. **pastiche:** a hodgepodge; a potpourri.

576. **paterfamilias:** the male head of a household; the father of a family.

577. **patina:** a superficial layer.

578. **patrician:** a nobleman; also, a person of refined upbringing, manners, and taste.

579. **paucity:** fewness; insufficiency.

580. **peccadillo:** a slight offense; a petty fault.

581. **peccant:** sinning.

582. **pecuniary:** relating to money.

583. **pejorative:** disparaging; belittling.

584. **pellucid:** transparent, clear; also, easily understandable.

585. **penchant:** a strong liking.

586. **penury:** extreme poverty; also, insufficiency.

587. **peradventure:** chance, uncertainty, or doubt.

588. **perambulate:** to stroll; to walk through or over.

589. **perdurable:** very durable; long lasting

590. **peremptory:** precluding or putting an end to all debate or action.

591. **perfidy:** faithlessness; treachery.

592. **perforce:** by necessity.

593. **perfunctory:** done routinely.

594. **peripatetic:** walking about or traveling from place to place.

595. **permeate:** to spread or diffuse through.

596. **pernicious:** deadly; destructive; exceedingly harmful.

597. **perorate:** to conclude or sum up a long discourse; also, to speak at length.

598. **perquisite:** a benefit in addition to a salary.

599. **perspicacity:** clearness of understanding.

600. **pertinacious:** holding obstinately to a belief, purpose or design; also, stubbornly persistent.

601. **pervicacious:** stubborn; obstinate.

602. **pettifogger:** a petty, unscrupulous lawyer; also, who quibbles over trivia.

603. **philomath:** a lover of learning; a scholar.

604. **physiognomy:** the face or appearance.

605. **piebald:** mottled; also, mixed.

606. **pin money:** money for incidental expenses; also, a trivial sum.

607. **plaintive:** expressive of sorrow or melancholy.

608. **plangent:** beating with a loud or deep sound; also, expressing sadness.

609. **plaudit:** enthusiastic approval.

610. **plebeian:** common; vulgar.

611. **plenary:** full; complete.

612. plenipotentiary: invested with full power.

613. pleonasm: the use of more words than are necessary to express an idea.

614. pliant: easily bent or flexed; also, easily influenced; compliant.

615. politic: political; also, shrewdly tactful.

616. polymath: a person of great or varied learning.

617. portent: a sign or omen.

618. posit: to postulate; also, to suggest.

619. postprandial: happening or done after a meal.

620. potable: drinkable; also, a beverage, especially an alcoholic one.

621. potboiler: a usually inferior literary or artistic work, produced quickly for the purpose of making money.

622. Potemkin village: a false front or facade.

623. practicable: feasible; also, usable.

624. precipice: a very steep, perpendicular, or overhanging place

625. predilection: an established preference.

626. prepotency: predominance.

627. presage: an omen; also, to predict.

628. prescient: knowing or anticipating the outcome of events before they happen.

629. presentiment: a premonition.

630. prestidigitation: sleight of hand.

631. preternatural: beyond of different from what is natural; inexplicable; extraordinary; abnormal.

632. prevaricate: to depart from or evade the truth.

633. prima facie: at first view.

634. primogeniture: the state of being the firstborn; also, an exclusive right of inheritance that belongs to the eldest son.

635. privation: the state of being deprived of something.

636. probity: complete and confirmed integrity.

637. proclivity: a natural inclination.

638. profuse: plentiful; copious.

639. prolix: wordy.

640. pronunciamento: a proclamation; a pronouncement.

641. propinquity: nearness.

642. propitiate: to appease; to conciliate.

643. propitious: presenting favorable circumstances.

644. proscribe: to forbid; to prohibit.

645. proselytize: to convert (someone) to another religion, belief, etc.

646. provenance: origin; source.

647. provender: food or provisions.

648. providential: resulting from divine providence; also, peculiarly fortunate or appropriate.

649. puckish: whimsical; mischievous; impish.

650. puerile: juvenile; childish.

651. pugilist: a boxer.

652. pugnacious: combative; quarrelsome.

653. puissant: powerful.

654. pulchritude: beauty.

655. pusillanimous: cowardly.

656. putative: commonly thought or deemed; supposed.

657. putsch: a secretly plotted and suddenly executed attempt to overthrow a government.

658. Pyrrhic victory: a victory achieved at great cost.

659. quaff: to drink with relish.

660. quagmire: a predicament.

661. quandary: a state of difficulty or perplexity.

662. querulous: habitually complaining; also, expressing complaint.

663. quiddity: the essence or nature of a thing.

664. quidnunc: a person who is eager to know the latest news and gossip.

665. quiescent: at rest; still; inactive.

666. quietus: final acquittance, as from debt; also, rest; death.

667. quisling: a traitor.

668. quixotic: foolishly impractical; also, capricious, impulsive.

669. quorum: such a number of the officers or members of any body as is legally competent to transact business.

670. quotidian: occurring daily; also, ordinary.

671. raffish: tawdry; also, rakish.

672. raillery: good-humored banter or teasing repartee.

673. rapport: relation characterized by sympathetic understanding.

674. rara avis: a rare or unique person or thing.

675. recalcitrant: stubbornly resistant to and defiant of authority or restraint.

676. recidivism: a tendency to lapse into a previous condition or pattern of behavior; esp., into prior criminal. habits.

677. recondite: difficult to understand.

678. recreant: cowardly; also, unfaithful or disloyal.

679. recumbent: reclining; lying down.

680. redolent: having or exuding fragrance; also, evocative, reminiscent.

681. redoubt: a stronghold.

682. redoubtable: formidable; also, illustrious; eminent.

683. redound: to have a consequence or effect.

684. refractory: stubbornly disobedient.

685. refulgent: brilliant; resplendent.

686. regale: to entertain with something that delights.

687. rejoinder: an answer to a reply.

688. remonstrate: to present and urge reasons in opposition.

689. remunerate: to pay an equivalent to for any service, loss, or expense.

690. renascent: rising again into being; showing renewed vigor.

691. renege: to go back on a promise or commitment.

692. repast: a meal.

693. repletion: the condition of being completely or excessively full.

694. requisite: required; indispensable.

695. reticent: inclined to keep silent.

696. riparian: of or pertaining to the bank of a river.

697. **rivulet:** a small stream or brook.

698. **robustious:** boisterous; vigorous.

699. **roister:** to revel; to carouse.

700. **roseate:** cheerful; bright; also, rose-colored.

701. **rubicund:** inclining to redness; ruddy.

702. **sacrosanct:** sacred; inviolable.

703. **salad days:** a time of youthful inexperience, innocence, or indiscretion.

704. **salient:** noticeable; also, projecting; also, leaping.

705. **salubrious:** healthful.

706. **salutary:** beneficial; also, healthful.

707. **sanctum:** a place where one is free from intrusion.

708. **sang-froid:** coolness in trying circumstances.

709. **sapid:** having flavor, especially a strong pleasant flavor.

710. **sapient:** wise; sage; discerning.

711. **sartorial:** of or relating to a tailor, tailoring, or clothing.

712. **satiety:** fullness to or beyond the point of satisfaction.

713. **saturnine:** gloomy or sullen.

714. **scapegrace:** one who is wild and reckless.

715. **schadenfreude:** a malicious satisfaction in the misfortunes of others.

716. **scintilla:** a tiny amount; a spark.

717. **scion:** a descendant; an heir.

718. **scrabble:** to scrape or scratch with the hands or feet.

719. **sedulous:** diligent in application or pursuit.

720. **segue:** to proceed without interruption.

721. **sempiternal:** everlasting; eternal.

722. **senescence:** the state of being or growing old.

723. **sentient:** capable of perceiving by the senses.

724. **sere:** dry; withered.

725. **serendipity:** the faculty or phenomenon of making fortunate accidental discoveries.

726. **seriatim:** in a series; one after another.

727. **sesquipedalian:** (of words) long; having many syllables.

728.**shibboleth:** a word, pronunciation, saying, belief, practice, etc., that distinguishes one group from another.

729. **simulacrum:** a representation; an insubstantial or vague semblance.

730. **sine qua non:** an indispensable thing.

731. **sinecure:** an office or position that involves little work or responsibility.

732. **skulk:** to hide in a sneaking manner.

733. **slake:** to satisfy or quench; also, to cause to lessen.

734. **slaver:** to slobber; to drool.

735. **sobriquet:** a nickname.

736. **soi-disant:** self-styled; so-called.

737. **sojourn:** to dwell for a time; also, a temporary stay.

738. **solace:** comfort in grief.

739. **solecism:** a nonstandard usage or grammatical construction.

740. **solicitous:** manifesting, expressing, or full of care or concern.

741. **somniferous:** causing or inducing sleep.

742. **somnolent:** drowsy; also, tending to cause sleepiness.

743. **sonorous:** yielding sound; impressive in sound.

744. **soporific:** causing sleep; also, something that causes sleep.

745. **spoonerism:** the transposition of usually initial sounds in a pair of words.

746. **spoony:** foolishly or sentimentally in love.

747. **sporadic:** occurring singly, or occasionally, or in scattered instances.

748. **staid:** steady or sedate in character.

749. **stanch:** to stop the flowing of; to check.

750. **starveling:** one who is starving or being starved; also, poor in quality.

751. **stasis:** a state of balance, equilibrium, or stagnation.

752. **stentorian:** extremely loud.

753. **stertorous:** characterized by a heavy snoring or gasping sound.

754. **stoic:** indifferent to or unaffected by pleasure or pain; also, one who is stoic.

755. **stolid:** unexcitable; unemotional.

756. **stormy petrel:** a type of seabird; also, one fond of or bringing strife.

757. **stripling:** an adolescent youth.

758. **stygian:** dark and gloomy; also, infernal.

759. **suasion:** the act of persuading.

760. **sub rosa:** secretly; privately; confidentially.

761. **subaltern:** subordinate.

762. **subfusc:** dark or dull in color.

763. **subterfuge:** a deceptive device or stratagem.

764. **succor:** aid; help; also, to help or relieve.

765. **suffuse:** spread through or over; to flush.

766. **sui generis:** unique.

767. **sunder:** to break apart.

768. **supercilious:** disdainfully arrogant.

769. **superfluous:** more than is wanted or is sufficient.

770. **supernal:** being on high; celestial.

771. **supervene:** to take place or occur as something additional, extraneous, or unexpected.

772. **supine:** lying on the back; also, indolent; listless.

773. **supplant:** to take the place of.

774. **supplicate:** to make a humble and earnest petition.

775. **supposititious:** fraudulently substituted; also, hypothetical.

776. **surcease:** cessation; stop; end arcane: understood or known by only a few.

777. **surly:** ill-humored; sullen and gruff.

778. **surreptitious:** done, made, or gotten by stealth; also, marked by stealth

779. **susurration:** a whispering; a soft murmur.

780. **swan song:** a final or farewell appearance, action, or pronouncement.

781. **sybarite:** a person devoted to luxury and pleasure.

782. **sycophant:** one who seeks favor by flattery; a toady.

783. **sylvan:** pertaining to woods or forests.

784. syncretic: uniting and blending together different belief systems.

785. tarradiddle: a fib; also, pretentious nonsense.

786. tchotchke: a trinket; a knickknack.

787. teetotaler: one pledged to abstinence from alcoholic drinks.

788. temerarious: reckless; rash.

789. temporize: to be indecisive or evasive in order to gain time; also, to go with the times.

790. tendentious: marked by a strong tendency in favor of a particular point of view.

791. tenebrous: dark; gloomy.

792. tenet: any opinion, principle, or doctrine held to be true.

793. tergiversation: evasion; also, desertion of a cause, party, etc.

794. termagant: a scolding, nagging, bad-tempered woman.

795. terminus: the end of a transportation line or route; any finishing point.

796. tetchy: peevish; testy; irritable.

797. tete-a-tete: a private conversation.

798. timorous: full of apprehensiveness; fearful.

799. tirade: a long angry speech.

800. titivate: to smarten up; to spruce.

801. toothsome: delicious; attractive; luscious.

802. tractable: docile; manageable, governable.

803. traduce: to vilify.

804.trammel: something that impedes activity, progress, or freedom; also, to hamper.

805. transmogrify: to change in appearance or form, esp strangely or grotesqely.

806. transmute: to change from one nature, form, substance, or state into another.

807.travail: painful, arduous work; also, agony, anguish.

808. treacly: overly sweet or sentimental.

809. trenchant: forceful and vigorous; also, caustic; also, clear-cut.

810. triskaidekaphobia: fear of number thirteen (13).

811. troglodyte: someone who dwells in a cave.

812. truckle: to submit or yeild obsequiously or tamely

798. timorous: full of apprehensiveness; fearful.

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810. triskaidekaphobia: fear of number thirteen (13).

811. troglodyte: someone who dwells in a cave.

812. truckle: to submit or yeild obsequiously or tamely

813. truculent: fierce; savage; ferocious.

814. tryst: an appointment (as between lovers) to meet.

815. tumid: swollen; bulging; also, bombastic.

816. turbid: muddy; not clear; also, confused; disordered.

817. turgid: swollen, bloated; also, bombastic, pompous.

818. turpitude: baseness; depravity.

819. tutelage: guardianship; protection; also, instruction.

820. tutelary: guardian; protecting.

Learning Outcomes :

- Mastering of words in their specific contexts.
- Contextual usage of words in writing.
- An exhaustive word list.

Nuances of Vocabulary

Larning Objectives

• To become aware of the words that are commonly confused.

• Word lists

• Vocabulary for RC.

The Fifth Step..

• Master the given lists of words

• Try to distinguish between words which may be very close in meaning and appearance.

• Develop your own exhaustive list of vocabulary related to Reading Comprehension.

• Don't stop at anything. There is no limit to learning.

Every word has its own significance in the realm of the context in which it is used. There are subtle differences between words which may look and sound alike. CAT **2007** had a few such questions, which proved to be extremely confusing for the test takers. It is important to understand the exact meaning of the words and then go for the appropriate option.

Homophones and Homonyms

Words Often Confused

• accede, exceed

Accede means to agree, to allow; exceed means to go beyond, to surpass.

• accept, except

Accept means to give approval or to receive willingly. Except means to exclude or leave out.

• adapt, adept, adopt

Adapt means to adjust, adept means skilled and adopt means to take as your own.

• adjured , abjured

Adjure' means to charge, bind, or command earnestly and solemnly, often under oath or the threat of a penalty and `abjure' means to renounce, repudiate, or retract, especially with formal solemnity.

• adverse, averse

Adverse means inauspicious, hostile; averse means disinclined, repelled.

• **advice, advise**

Advice is the noun and advise the verb.

• **affect, effect**

Affect is a verb; effect is more usually a noun. When used as a verb it means to achieve, fulfil, realise. Effect means a result or a consequence.

• **aloud, allowed**

Aloud means out loud, speaking so that someone else can hear you; allowed means permitted.

• **already, all ready**

Already means by this time; all ready means prepared.

• **altogether, all together**

Altogether means wholly; all together means everybody in a group.

• **all right, alright**

All right is the correct form; alright is grammatically incorrect.

• **allude, elude**

Allude means to refer to; elude means to dodge or escape.

• **allusion, illusion**

Allusion is an indirect reference or hint; illusion means deception or mirage.

• **all ways, always**

All ways means by every way or method; always means all the time, forever.

• **annual, annul**

Annual means yearly; annul means to make void or invalid.

• **appraise, apprise**

Appraise is to assess or estimate. Apprise is to inform or notify.

• **ascent, assent**

Ascent is an upward movement; assent means agreement.

• **assistance, assistants**

Assistance means help or aid; Assistants is the plural of assistant, one who gives help.

• **assure, ensure, insure**

Assure means to guarantee; ensure means to make sure; insure means to protect against loss or damage.

• attrition , detrition

Attrition here means a reduction or decrease in number of employees and is the apt word. `Detrition' is the act of wearing away by friction.

• auger, augur

Auger is a tool; augur means to predict.

• baited, bated

Baited usually refers to traps or snares. When the reference is to someone who is hardly daring to breathe, the correct word is always bated.

• bare, bear

Bare means naked; bear (apart from being a large animal) means to carry.

• bazaar, bizarre

Bazaar is an exhibition or fair; bizarre means weird, grotesque, alien.

• beside, besides

Beside means by the side of; besides means in addition to.

• biannual, biennial

These two are really tricky! Biannual means happening twice a year; biennial means every two years.

• blonde, blond

Because these are borrowed from French there is a feminine and masculine form. Blonde is feminine and blond is masculine.

• bore, boar, boor

Bore as a noun is a boring or tiresome person, or something that you don't like doing; boar is a male pig; boor is a rude or insensitive person.

• board, bored

Board is a long sheet of wood, also a group of people as in "Board of Directors", and as a verb means to go onto a ship, plane or other form of public transport; bored means not interested.

• boor , boar

`Boor' refers to a person with rude, clumsy manners and little refinement and `boar' is an animal. `Boor' fits well in the sentence.

• born, borne

Born is always the beginning of life, borne means carried.

• bought, brought

Bought is the past tense of buy, brought is the past tense of bring.

• braise, braze

Braise means to cook slowly in liquid (usually meat); braze most commonly means to solder with an alloy of copper and zinc.

• brake, break

Brake means to stop; break means to smash.

• bridal, bridle

Bridal has to do with brides and weddings; bridle as a noun means a halter or restraint; as a verb it means to restrain or to draw oneself up in anger.

• canvas, canvass

Canvas is cloth or fabric; canvass means to seek votes, to survey, to sell door-to-door.

• capital, capitol

Capital means the seat of government; money invested; excellent. Capitol is the building where government meets.

• censor, sensor

Censor as a verb means to officially inspect and make deletions or changes (in books, letters, movies, etc.) usually because the deleted or changed material is regarded as offensive or harmful in some way, though movies these days are more likely to be given a rating instead; as a noun it refers to the official who does the censoring. Sensor is something that senses (for instance a burglar alarm has many sensors: for movement, body heat, etc.)

• collaborate, corroborate

Collaborate means to work with someone; corroborate means to establish the truth of something.

• compliment, complement

Compliment means praise or congratulate. You always pay someone a compliment, not a complement. Complement means to supplement, round out.

• continual, continuous

Continual means something that happens frequently, with breaks between the occurrences. Continuous means something that happens without stopping!

• correspondence, correspondents

Correspondence is written communication; correspondents are those who write it.

• creak, creek

Creak is both a noun and a verb and means squeak or groan (for instance, rusty hinges and loose floorboards creak); creek is a noun and means a waterway or stream.

• credible, creditable

Credible means believable; creditable means praiseworthy or deserving credit.

• criteria, criterion

Criterion is singular; criteria is plural.

• curb, kerb

Curb means to control, as in "curb your temper", while kerb is the edge of a footpath or sidewalk.

• demur , demure

Demur' is the act of making objection and `demure' refers to a person who is characterized by shyness and modesty; reserved.

• desert, dessert

Desert means to abandon (and can also be a noun, meaning a wasteland); dessert is the sweet course of a meal.

• device, devise

Device is a noun, meaning a gadget or (particularly in writing terms) an invention; devise is a verb, meaning to invent or plot.

• discreet, discrete

Discreet means respectful, prudent; discrete means separate or detached from others.

• disperse, disburse

`Disperse' means to drive or send off in various directions; scatter, `disburse' means to pay out (money), especially for expenses; expend <The funds were to be disbursed in two installments> so will be a better fit for the third sentence.

• draft, draught

Draft refers to the first writing of your novel or story (or any other document). You can also be drafted (enlisted or recruited) into the army, navy, etc.

Draught is an air movement, a drink (as in "draught of ale") or refers to a horse (or other animal) used for pulling ploughs, etc (e.g., "draught horse").

• elicit, illicit

Elicit means to extract or draw out; illicit means not legal.

• eminent, imminent

Eminent means distinguished, famous; imminent means near, close at hand.

• enormity, enormousness

`Enormity' means a quality of momentous importance or impact whereas `enormousness' means marked by extraordinarily great size, number.

• envelops, envelopes

Envelop' (verb) means to wrap up in or as in a covering, `envelope' is a noun and means a flat paper container used for sending letters in, so only (verb) can fit in the third sentence.

• epigraph, epigram

An `epigraph' is a brief quotation set at the beginning of a text (a book, a chapter of a book, an essay, a poem) to suggest its theme. An `epigram' is a brief, witty statement in prose or verse-similar to an aphorism.

• everyday, every day

Everyday means commonplace, ordinary; every day is used for something that happens daily.

• everyone, every one

Everyone means every person in a group; every one means each person and is always followed by "of".

• exasperated , exacerbated

Exasperate' means to irritate or provoke to a high degree; annoy extremely: He was exasperated by the senseless delays. `Exacerbate' means to increase the severity, violence, or bitterness of; aggravate: a speech that exacerbated racial tensions; a heavy rainfall that exacerbated the flood problems.

• expeditious, expedient

`Expeditious' means done or achieved with speed and efficiency whereas `expedient' means conducive to advantage or interest; practical and possible.

• expounded , espoused

`Espouse' refers to choosing and following; as of theories, ideas, policies, strategies or plans and `expound' means to set forth or state in detail: to expound theories.

• Extant, extent

`Extant' means in existence; still existing; not destroyed or lost, whereas `extent' means the space or degree to which a thing extends.

• exulted , exalted

Exult' means to show or feel a lively or triumphant joy; rejoice exceedingly; be highly elated or jubilant. `Exalt' means to raise in rank, honor, power, character, quality, etc

• fair, fare

Fair means average, good-looking, pale, and unbiased. Fare is the money you pay to go somewhere by bus, train, plane, taxi, etc. It can also refer to a passenger.

• farther, further

Farther is used for physical distance; further for non-physical.

• faze, phase

The most common error is the use of phase when the writer means faze. To faze someone is to fluster or confuse them, whereas phase is mostly used in reference to a stage in someone's life—though it can be a stage in almost anything else.

• flare, flair

Flare means to flash or blaze and (as a noun) is a pyrotechnic device; flair means ability or skill.

• forbear, forebear

Forbear means to refrain from; forebear is an ancestor or forefather.

• foreword, forward

Foreword is the preface in a book, usually written by someone who is not the author; forward means ahead, near the front.

• foul, fowl

Foul can mean dishonourable (by foul means), disgusting (a foul smell), entangle (rubbish dumped in the river can foul fishing lines); fowl is a bird.

• found, founded

Found is the past tense of find; founded means started.

• foolish, foolhardy

Foolish' means resulting from or showing a lack of sense, whereas `foolhardy' means recklessly or thoughtlessly bold; foolishly rash; taking unnecessary risks

• foundering, floundering

Foundering' means to become wrecked; fail utterly as opposed to `floundering' which means to struggle clumsily or helplessly. Only can fit here because the campaign is still underway it has not yet failed.

• frittered, fettered

Fritter something away means to waste time or money on things that are not important whereas `fetter somebody' means to put chains around a prisoner's feet.

• gibe, jibe

Gibe means to taunt; jibe means to agree, correspond or tally; in boating it means to shift the sails.

• gorilla, guerrilla

Gorilla is a large ape; guerrilla is a particular kind of soldier.

• griping , gripping

Griping' means to complain naggingly or constantly; grumble and `gripping' means holding the attention or interest intensely; fascinating; enthralling.

• grisly, gristly

`Grisly' means causing a shudder or feeling of horror; horrible; gruesome whereas `gristly' means resembling or containing gristle.

• hail, hale

Hail means to greet or to come from (as in "She hails from Mangalore") and as a noun it is frozen raindrops; hale means healthy or (as a verb) to haul.

• hanged, hung

A criminal is always hanged; a picture is hung.

• herd, heard

Herd is a group of animals; heard is the past tense of hear.

• hoard, horde

Hoard means to stockpile and as a noun it is a cache of stockpiled stuff; horde is a large group.

• home, hone

Home is where one lives (or where the heart is!); hone means to sharpen.

• immemorial, immortal

Immemorial means ancient beyond memory (as in the cliché "since time immemorial"); immortal means deathless, eternal.

• indict, indite

`Indict' means to charge with an offense or crime, `indite' means to put down in writing

• inflicted, afflicted

`Inflicted' means to make somebody/something suffer something unpleasant whereas `afflicted' means to affect somebody/something in an unpleasant or harmful way

• ingenuous, ingenious

`Ingenuous' means free from reserve, restraint, or dissimulation; candid; sincere whereas `ingenious' means characterized by cleverness or originality of invention or construction.

• insidious, invidious

`Insidious' means spreading gradually or without being noticed, but causing serious harm whereas `invidious' means unpleasant and unfair; likely to offend somebody or make them jealous

• intolerable, intolerant

Intolerable; means tiring, onerous crushing; intolerant means biased, prejudiced. Someone cannot be intolerable of another's beliefs.

• irregardless, regardless

There is no such word as irregardless; the correct word is regardless

• its, it's

It's is short for `it is' and its is possessive—always.

• juncture, junction

Juncture' means a particular point or stage in an activity or a series of events. `Junction' means a place where two or more cables, rivers or other things meet or are joined.

• laudable, laudatory

`Laudable' means deserving praise as opposed to `laudatory' which means containing or expressing praise.

• lay, laid

"Our hens lay every day."

"The hens laid ten eggs yesterday."

• lay, lie

"I lay down because I didn't feel well" and "I lie on my bed and read".

• leach, leech

The verb `leach' means to remove chemicals, minerals, etc. from soil The English Usage Supplement | 75 noun `leech' refers to a bloodsucking worm or to a person who preys on or clings to another. As a verb, `leech' means to bleed with leeches or to act as a parasite.

• lend, loan

Lend is a verb meaning to give something temporarily to someone; loan is a noun, meaning the temporary transfer of something to someone else.

• liable, libel

Liable means subject to, answerable for or likely; libel is written (as opposed to spoken) untruths about someone, which are injurious to that person's reputation, and for which you may be taken to court - though this distinction in defamation is applicable in English law, not Indian law.

• licence, license

In British usage, licence is always the noun and license the verb.

• lightening, lightning

Lightening means making lighter or brighter; lightning (which is always a noun) is what comes out of the sky, usually followed by a crack of thunder.

• loath, loathe

`Loath' is an adjective which means unwilling; reluctant; disinclined He was loath to admit his mistake > whereas `loathe' somebody means to hate somebody.

• lose, loose

Lose always means mislaying or dropping something and not being able to find it, while loose means slack or free.

• manner, manor

Manner means method, appearance, class, character; manor is strictly a large, stately house.

• mantel, mantle

Mantel is the shelf above a fireplace, or the fireplace surrounding; mantle is a cloak or blanket.

• marquee, marquis

Marquee' means (especially in sport) most important or most popular whereas `marquis' means a nobleman of high rank between a count and a duke.

• marshal, marshall

Marshal is a military officer or a sheriff; marshall is a verb.

• mitigates, militates

`Mitigates' means to lessen in force or intensity, as wrath, grief, harshness, or pain; moderate whereas `militates' means to have a substantial effect; weigh heavily.

• mucus, mucous

Mucus is a noun; `mucous' is an adjective. `Mucus' refers to the viscous, slippery substance that consists chiefly of mucin, water, cells, and inorganic salts and is secreted as a protective lubricant coating by cells and glands of the `mucous' membranes.

• mute, moot

Mute as a verb means to silence or quieten down, as a noun it's a little gadget used by string players (particularly violinists) to soften the sound from their instruments. As an adjective it means dumb or making no sound, as in "He looked at me in mute appeal." Moot means debatable.

• officious, official

Officious' generally has a negative connotation. As an adjective, `official' means authorized, authoritative, or characteristic of an office.

• obsequious, obsequies

`Obsequious' means characterized by or showing servile complaisance or deference; fawning. `Obsequies' refers to a funeral rite or ceremony.

• palatable, palpable

Palatable' means having a pleasant or acceptable taste. `Palpable' means readily or plainly seen, heard, perceived, capable of being touched or felt.

• pall, pawl

`Pall' means a cloth covering, usually black, spread over a coffin or tomb; depressing or oppressive atmosphere and `pawl' is a pivoted bar adapted to engage with the teeth of a ratchet wheel or the like so as to prevent movement or to impart motion.

• pallet, palette

Pallet' means a bed or mattress of straw as opposed to `palette' which means a thin and usually oval or oblong board or tablet with a thumb hole at one end, used by painters for holding and mixing colors.

• peek, pique, peak

Pique means to excite or irritate; peek means to peep or snoop; peak as a noun means the summit or tip, and as a verb means to climax.

• peer, pier

Peer as a noun means a person who is your equal and as a verb it means to squint or look obliquely at something; pier is a type of wharf or dock. pear (a fruit) and pare (to peel).

• premiere , premier

Premier' refers to someone first in status or importance; principal or chief and `premiere' refers to a first public performance or showing of a play, opera, film, etc.

• peremptory, preemptory

Peremptory' means expecting to be obeyed immediately and without question or refusal. `Preempt' means to prevent something from happening by taking action to stop it.

• persecute, prosecute

Persecute' somebody means to treat somebody in a cruel and unfair way, especially because of their race, religion or political beliefs <Throughout history, people have been persecuted for their religious beliefs> minorities>, `prosecute' means to institute legal proceedings against (a person)

• perspicuous, perspicacious

Perspicuous' means clearly expressed or presented; lucid, whereas perspicacious' means having keen mental perception and understanding.

• plain, plane

Plain means obvious, also unadorned or lacking in good looks; plane is a carpenter's tool or an abbreviation of aeroplane.

• populous , populace

Populous' means full of residents or inhabitants, as a region; heavily populated and `populace' refers to the common people of a community, nation, etc., as distinguished from the higher classes.

• pour, pore

You pour sauces, gravies, etc, over your dinner, while pore means to study something—so, "pore over the book", not "pour over the book", which reads as though you might be damaging the book with an unnamed liquid substance!

• practice, practise

In British usage, practice is always the noun and practise the verb.

• premise, premises

Premise usually means assumption, supposition, while premises means an apartment, house or building and its grounds.

• precedence , precedents

Precedence' means the fact of preceding in time; antedating whereas `precedent' means any act, decision, or case that serves as a guide or justification for subsequent situations.

• prodigy, protégé

The noun `prodigy' refers to a highly talented young person or to a wondrous event. The noun `protégé' refers to someone whose training or career is advanced by an influential person.

• prognosis, diagnosis

The noun `prognosis' means a forecast or prediction. The noun `diagnosis' refers to the process of analyzing information to understand or explain something.

• rain, reign, rein

Rain is the water that comes down from clouds; reign means to rule; rein is a strap, usually leather, for controlling an animal, especially a horse.

• raise, raze

These two are exact opposites. Raise means to lift or build up and raze means to pull down.

• ravage, ravish

The verb `ravage' means to ruin, devastate, or destroy. The noun `ravage' (often in the plural) means grievous damage or destruction. `Ravish' typically has a human subject and object, and means seize, rape; to give somebody great pleasure.

• reality, realty

Reality is real life; realty is real estate.

• reference, reverence

Reference is something referred to, reverence means respect.

• regimen, regiment

Regimen is a noun and is mostly used to refer to a prescribed way of life, or diet or exercise. It is also the action of governing. Regiment as a verb means to direct, command; as a noun it refers to a military unit.

• residence, residents

Residence is a house; residents are the people who live there.

• retch, wretch

Retch means to gag or try to vomit; wretch is a grovelling person, a creep.

• rifle, riffle

Rifle (apart from being a firearm) means to steal; riffle means to leaf through or browse.

• road, rode

Road is a long surface for cars and other vehicles; rode is the past tense of ride.

• role, roll

Role is a part in a play or film; roll as a noun is a document or something that is cylindrical in shape and as a verb it means to make something into a cylindrical shape, to turn or spin.

• sale, sail

Sale is either offering something for purchase ("for sale") or offering it at a special price ("on sale"); sail is part of a ship or boat.

• scrimp, skimp

Scrimp' as an adjective means meager, scanty. To scrimp is to be sparing with or thrifty; to save slowly and with difficulty whereas `skimp' means to try to spend less time, money, etc. on something than is really needed

• sear, sere

Sear' means to cause somebody to feel sudden and great pain; burn or scorch injuriously or painfully whereas `sere' means dry; withered.

• seam, seem

Seam is most often used to refer to the joining of two pieces of fabric with thread, but it can refer to other types of joins; seem means appear.

• sensuous , sensual

Sensuous refers to, favorably or literally, to what is experienced through the senses: sensuous impressions; sensuous poetry and `sensual' means of, relating to, given to, or providing gratification of the physical and especially the sexual appetites.

• sever, severe

Sever means to separate, detach; severe means grim, stern.

• serf, surf

Serf means slave or servant; surf is a wave and as a verb is also the action of riding the waves on a board or using a computer to find something on the Internet.

• shear, sheer

Shear means to cut or clip; sheer means transparent (as in "sheer nylon hosiery"); steep (as in "a sheer drop"); total or absolute (as in "sheer stupidity").

• shoal, shale

Shoal' refers to a small hill of sand just below the surface of the sea, whereas `shale' means a type of soft stone that splits easily into thin flat layers.

• shore, sure

Shore as verb means to brace or support; as a noun it is usually a beach but can also be a support or a brace; sure means certain, confident. So you do not sure up a company by borrowing more capital; you shore it up.

• simple, simplistic

Simple' means not elaborate, easy to understand, deal with whereas `simplistic' is derogatory and means making a problem, situation, etc. seem less difficult or complicated than it really is; oversimplified

• singly, singularly

Singly means individually, one-by-one; singularly means strangely.

• site, sight, cite

Site always refers to location or place: building site; archaeology site. Sight always refers to vision, as in the cliché "a sight for sore eyes".

Cite means to summon, or to refer to a source,

• sole, soul

Sole as an adjective means single, as in "the sole cause of the problem"; as a noun it is a type of fish and the under part of a foot or a shoe. Soul generally refers to the invisible part of you that lives on after you die; also heart or mind; a human being (as in "no living soul").

l **stalagmites , stalactites**

Stalagmites refers to a deposit, usually of calcium carbonate, more or less resembling an inverted stalactite, formed on the floor of a cave or the like by the dripping of percolating calcareous water. And `stalactites' refers to a deposit, usually of calcium carbonate, shaped like an icicle, hanging from the roof of a cave or the like, and formed by the dripping of percolating calcareous water.

• **stationary, stationery**

Stationary means standing still.

Stationery refers to writing paper.

• **statue, statute, stature**

Statue is a carved or moulded likeness; statute is law; stature means height or status.

• **straight, strait**

Straight means without bends; strait is a passage of water.

• **sulking , skulking**

Sulk means to remain silent or hold oneself aloof in a sullen, ill-humored, or offended mood and `skulk' means to lie or keep in hiding, as for some evil reason

• **taut, taught, taunt**

Taut means tight or firm; taught is the past tense of teach; taunt equals jeer, insult.

• **taut , tout**

Taut means emotionally or mentally strained or tense: taut nerve and `tout' means to describe or advertise boastfully; publicize or promote; praise extravagantly

• **tenant, tenet**

Tenant is one who rents a property; tenet is a principle or belief.

• **temerity , timidity**

The noun `temerity' means reckless boldness; rashness. The adjective `timidity' means lacking in self-assurance, courage, or bravery; easily alarmed; timorous; shy.

• **throes, throws**

Throes are violent spasms or painful struggles, though not always physical. Throws means hurls or tosses. As a noun it means blankets or other types of covering.

• **titivate, titillate**

Titivate means to make smart or spruce; to improve the appearance of somebody/something by making small changes whereas `titillate' means to excite or arouse agreeably.

• turgid, turbid

Turgid means boring, complicated and difficult to understand <turgid prose>; swollen; containing more water than usual turgid waters of the Thames> whereas `turbid' means muddy; not clear or transparent because of stirred-up sediment; clouded.

• unchartered , uncharted

Unchartered means not authorized by charter; unregulated; not having a charter or written constitution, `uncharted' means not shown or located on a map; not mapped or surveyed; unexplored; unknown, as a place or region. It is also used figuratively as `the present study is a foray into uncharted territory'.

• vane, vain, vein

Vane is something that shows from which direction the wind is blowing;

vain means too concerned about how one looks (though one can be vain about other things, of course!) and also means useless, as in "a vain attempt"; vein is a blood vessel, a channel.

• venal, venial

Venal means dishonest, dishonourable; venial means forgivable, unimportant (as in "venial sins").

• verses, versus

Verses is the plural of verse, something a poet writes; versus means against, in comparison with.

• verse, worse

Verse is rhythmic writing, worse means of a poorer quality or lesser standard.

• vicious, viscous

Vicious means savage, cruel; viscous means thick, gummy.

• vile, wile

Vile is an adjective and means highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable as opposed to `wile' which is a noun and means a trick, artifice, or stratagem meant to fool, trap, or entice; device.

• vise, vice

Vise means a tool with two metal blocks that can be moved together by turning a screw. The vise is used to hold an object firmly while work is done on it whereas `vice' means an immoral or evil habit or practice

• wailing , waling

Wale refers to a streak, stripe, or ridge produced on the skin by the stroke of a rod or whip; welt and `wail' refers to a long, loud, high-pitched cry, as of grief or pain.

• waist, waste

Waist is the part of your body around which you fasten your belt; waste as a noun mostly refers to stuff that's thrown away. As a verb it usually means to squander.

• wary, weary

Wary means careful; weary means tired.

• wave, waive

Wave means to flap your hand in farewell and as a noun is also a breaker on the beach; waive means to give up one's rights or claim.

• waver, waiver

Waver means to be undecided; waiver means the giving up of rights or claims.

• wet, whet

Wet as a verb means strictly to pour liquid on something. Whet means to sharpen or stimulate.

• wont, won't

Wont means accustomed; won't is short for "will not".

• wracked, racked

Wracked means to wreck as opposed to `racked' which means to cause to suffer torture, pain, anguish, or ruin; to stretch or strain violently.

• wreathe, wreath

Wreathe is a verb which means to encircle or adorn with or as with a wreath, `wreath' is a noun which means a circular band of flowers, foliage, or any ornamental work, for adorning the head or for any decorative purpose; a garland or chaplet

• yoke, yolk

Yoke as a verb means to bind or confine. Yolk is the yellow part of an egg.

Vocabulary for RC

Not appreciating the subtle differences between words like - sarcastic and sardonic, ironical and cynical..... (the list goes on), may threaten your chances of a high score in RC (especially in inferential and true tone passages).

The beauty of English gets enhanced when understood in the right perspective. On the other hand, one word misunderstood may stand you in for a comical interpretation of a serious passage. The - `Vocabulary for RC' section becomes a unique section, as it tries to

encompass a kaleidoscope of tones, moods, opinions, characteristics, eulogies and insults which have statistically found a higher representation in the R.C. passages of management entrance exams.

Enjoy!

1. Agnostic: A person who is unsure of the existence of God. Unlike atheists, he is a little flexible with respect to his beliefs about God, but still unsure.

2. Analytical: Characterised by logical and reasonable basis.

Analytically sound managers - need of the hour.

3. Anarchist:

(*i*) A person who believes that laws and governments are not necessary.

(*ii*) Someone who wishes to destroy the existing govt. and laws.

4. Atheism/atheist: A belief in the non-existence of God.

5. Authoritarian: A person following complete obedience to authority.

Hitler is a good example of the kind.

Example: The authoritarian regime of Taliban finally met its nemesis.

6. Bacchanalian: (Usually associated with a party etc.) wild and involving a lot of drinking and uncontrolled behaviour.

Drunken merrymaking, a revelry.

7. Blasphemy: The act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God.

Example: Blasphemy and independent thinking are confused very often .

8. Callous: Having or showing no sympathy for other people's feelings or suffering.

Example: A callous disregard for the feeling of others.

9. Castigating: To criticize someone or something severely health inspectors castigated the kitchen staff for poor standards of cleanliness.

Example: Hansie Cronje's castigation by the sports media.

10. Commendation: Praise or approval.

Example: The session began with a word of real commendation to the president of the company.

11. Contemplative: Pondering over or considering thoughtfully.

Example: Contemplate changing careers.

12. Critique: Critical analysis.

Example: Presented in this column is a critique of the govt.'s economic policies.

13. Cynic: A person who believes that people do not do things for good, sincere or noble reasons, but only for their own advantage: concerned only with one's own interests.

Example 1: Stop giving these cynical smiles!

Example 2: Women in Afghanistan had, over a period of time started viewing the cynical Taliban regime with much apprehension.

Example 3: His adventurism was very close to being termed as a cynical disregard for the safety of others.

14. Disillusion (ed): To destroy the pleasant, but mistaken beliefs or ideals.

Example: Disillusioned voters want an alternative to the two parties.

15. Disingenuous: Not straightforward; crafty; insincere

Example: "I don't have a clue about Mozart!" he said, the remark seemed disingenous, coming from a famous pianist.

16. Disinterested: Freedom from bias or self-interest; impartiality.

Example: A disinterested act of kindness.

Different from uninterested; being without an interest.

Totally uninterested in what you are reading right now.

17. Disparagement: The art or process of speaking in a belittling way; decrying, or reducing someone in rank or esteem.

Example: Disparaging someone's character or achievements.

18. Ecclesiastical: Of or relating to a church, as an organised institution.

Example: The period witnessed strong anti-ecclesiastical views from the masses.

19. Eclectic: Selecting what appears to be the best from diverse sources, systems or styles

Example: She has very eclectic tastes in literature.

20. Empiricism: The practice of relying on observation and experiment, especially in the natural sciences.

A theory that all knowledge originates in experience.

Example: An empirical analysis of the situation yielded different results.

21. Exploratory: To investigate

systematically; to examine.

Example: Explore every suggestion given.

22. Frivolous: Something which demands lesser important or someone who is lacking in seriousness.

Example: The Zimbabweans are not frivolous when it comes to playing them on their own soil.

23. Indignation: Anger aroused by something unjust, unworthy, or mean.

Example: Kapil Dev's indignation is just.

24. Inquisitive: Someone who has the propensity to ask questions.

Example: My first class in the college saw many inquisitive students trying to unnerve me.

25. Ironic: Something which happens in the opposite way to what is expected.

Example: It is ironic that he died of AIDS, though he was the one who discovered the first AIDS vaccine.

26. Melodramatic:

(*i*) A work (as a movie or a play) which is characterised by extravagant theatrics and predominance of plot and physical action over characterisation.

(*ii*) Appealing to emotions: sensational.

Example: A melodramatic form of events characterized his life.

27. Misnomer: Name that doesn't suit what it refers to

It was the dirtiest place, I have ever stayed in, so hotel Royal was a bit of a misnomer.

Example: To call CAT exam, a catwalk would be a misnomer

28. Moron: A very stupid person.

Example: Rahul behaves like a complete moron sometimes.

29. Morose: Unhappy and bad tempered but not saying much.

Example: Morose mannerisms.

30. Mystic: Quality of being special in a mysterious or attractive way.

Example: Some of the greatest kings of the olden days were stupefied by Cleopatra's mystical beauty.

31. Mysticism: The belief that knowledge of God and of real truth may be reached by directing one's mind or through spiritual insight, independent of reason and the senses.

Example: An air of mysticism always surrounds the Swami's presence.

32. Mystify: To puzzle someone/something.

33. Mystique: An aura of heightened value.

Example: The mystique of existentialism.

34. Myth:

(*i*) An ancient story or legend

(*ii*) Something that many people believe but that doesn't exist or is false - Fallacy

35. Objective: Something which is not influenced by personal feelings or opinions. Fair.

Example:

(*i*) Usually we lose our objectivity, when it comes to something involving us.

(*ii*) A thing aimed at or wished for.

36. Prejudice: Dislike or distrust of a person, group, or custom, etc., that is based on fear or false information rather than on reason or experience, and that influences one's attitude and behaviour towards them.

Example: Nita's decision is highly prejudiced.

37. Reproof: Blame or disapproval.

Example: He received a mild reproof from his mother.

38. Sardonic: Disdainfully or skeptically humourous; derisively mocking.

Example: You could always play for a miracle; he added sardonically.

39. Sceptical/Skeptical: An attitude of doubt or a disposition to incredulity either in general or towards a particular object.

Example: I am a little sceptical about the cutoff of the maths section.

40. Subjective: Based on personal taste or opinions.

A very subjective analysis of the situation.

Example: Our perception of people is often influenced by subjective factors, such as others' opinion about them.

Saying that `Green Mile' is not a good movie, would be a very subjective statement on your part; I liked it.

41. Supercilious: haughtily disdainful or contemptuous

Example: His supercilious attitude is disliked by everyone.

42. Vindictive: Disposed to seek revenge; spiteful

Example: The lawyer's family was threatened by the vindictive criminal.

Exercise 1

1 Given below are a few interesting words and phrases. There is story behind each one of these. Enjoy...

Etymology- Etymology is the study of the origins and historical development of words. In these spaces, we provide a few interesting etymologies. While some may help you to remember the meaning of words, many are here just for the amusing facts. Few websites with interesting facts of word origins are

http://www.wordorigins.org/index. htm

http://www.brainyencyclopedia.com/encyclopedia/l/li/ ist_of_company_name_etymologies.html

Assassin - During the time of the Crusades the members of a certain secret Muslim sect engaged people to terrorise their Christian enemies by performing murders as a religious duty. These acts were carried out under the influence of hashish, and so the killers became known as hashshashin, meaning eaters or smokers of hashish. Hashshashin evolved into the word assassin.

Hazard - This term evolved from the Arabic al zahr, which means the dice. In Western Europe the term came to be associated with a number of games using dice, which were learned during the Crusades whilst in the Holy Land. The term eventually took on the connotation of danger because, from very early on, games using dice were associated with the risky business of gambling and con artists using corrupted dice.

Alcohol- This word comes from the Arabic al-kuhl, which originally meant a very fine powder of antimony used as eye makeup. It conveyed the idea of something very fine and subtle, and the Arab alchemists therefore gave the name of al-kuhl to any impalpable powder obtained by sublimation (the direct transformation of a solid into vapor, or the reverse process), and thus to all compounds obtained through the distillation process.

Broke - (In the sense of having no money)

Many banks in post-Renaissance Europe issued small, porcelain "borrower's tiles" to their creditworthy customers. Like credit cards, these tiles were imprinted with the owner's name, his credit limit, and the name of the bank. Each time the customer wanted to borrow money, he had to present the tile to the bank teller, who would compare the imprinted credit limit with how much the customer had already borrowed. If the borrower were past the limit, the teller "broke" the tile on the spot.

Denim- The tough cloth used in jeans was originally made in Nimes, France, as well as Genoa, Italy. It was called Serge di Nimes—later shortened to di Nimes, which became denim.

Ostracize - "Ostron" is a Greek word for pottery. Periodically the Greeks would hold an election to determine if someone was a danger to their community. Everyone would write their votes on broken pieces of pottery ("ostron") and if the vote was successful, the person was banished or "ostracized."

Baker's Dozen (13 and not 12) - The popular tale behind this phrase's origin is that a medieval law specified the weight of loaves of bread and any baker who shorted a

customer was in for dire punishment. So, baker's would include a thirteenth loaf with each dozen just to be safe. The story is partly true. There was such a law, but the practice of adding an extra loaf to the dozen had nothing to do with fear of punishment. During years of good harvests, bakers could make more bread than they could sell locally, so they would sell the excess loaves to middlemen. The baker would give the middleman a thirteenth loaf for each dozen. This extra loaf provided the profit for the middleman.

Bedlam - Bedlam is a Middle English form of Bethlehem, referring to the Judean city where Christ was born.

The sense meaning madness, uproar, or confusion comes from the Hospital of Saint Mary of Bethlehem in London. The hospital was founded as a priory in **1247** and is first mentioned as a hospital in **1330**. In **1547** it was incorporated as a lunatic asylum. So, the modern sense is an extension of the idea of a lunatic asylum.

Blackmail - Blackmail derives from the old practice of freebooting clan chieftains who ran protection rackets against Scottish farmers. If the farmers did not pay the mail, the chiefs would steal their crops and cattle. Mál is an Old English word meaning rent or tribute. The black either comes from the evil connotation of this practice, or from the fact that this "rent" was usually paid in goods, like cattle, as opposed to silver coin, known as white money.

Bulls and Bears- These two stock market terms appear in the early **18**th century. Bear was the first to appear and originally referred to the practice of selling stock one does not yet own for delivery at a future date with the expectation that the price would fall in the meantime, enabling the speculator to buy the stock at a lower price. Such speculators were called bear-skin jobbers after the phrase sell the bear's skin before one has caught the bear. Gradually, the term took on the meaning of being generally pessimistic about stock prices.

Bull appears a few years later and was almost certainly influenced by bear.

Cabal- Popularly, cabal is said to have been formed as an acronym for the names of five ministers of Charles II (Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley, and Lauderdale) who were at the bottom of various political intrigues in the early **1670**s. According to history, these five, plus others, defaulted on the national debt by closing the exchequer in **1670**, started a war with Holland in **1672**, and entered into an alliance with the hated French in **1673**. This origin of the word is spurious.

Catch-22 - This phrase, meaning a situation where one bureaucratic regulation is dependent on another, which in turn is dependent on the first, derives from the **1961** novel of the same name by Joseph Heller:

Orr was crazy and could be grounded. All he had to do was ask; and as soon as he did, he would no longer be crazy and would have to fly more missions. Orr would be crazy to fly more missions and sane if he didn't, but if he was sane he had to fly them. If he flew them he was crazy and didn't have to; but if he didn't want to he was sane and had to.

Filibuster - This American political term derives from the Dutch vrijbuiter, or free-booter, a term applied to pirates in the Caribbean in the **16**th century. In French and Spanish the word is translated as flibustier and filibustero respectively. The modern legislative sense was common by the **1850**s, probably adopted because the filibusterers

were hijacking the debate much like a pirate would hijack a ship. This meaning is that of a senator or group of senators who continue to talk, often about irrelevant topics (reading the telephone book is a
phrase often used), in order to prevent a vote on a particular subject. The rules of the US Senate allow for unlimited debate, so as long as the vocal cords of the senators hold out, they can prevent legislation from moving forward.

Gargoyle - According to myth, in the 7th century a dragon, named Gargouille—literally throat, rose from the waters of the Seine River in France. Unlike the typical dragons of mythology, this one did not breathe fire, but rather was a water dragon. The monster proceeded to lay waste to the countryside around Paris by drowning it. St. Romain, the Archbishop of Rouen, accompanied only by a condemned prisoner, set out to stop the beast. Upon confronting the monster, the good saint formed a cross with his two index fingers, taming Gargouille. The dragon was led back to Paris, where it was slain and burned. The head, however, was saved and mounted on a building. In commemoration of this event, architects began to design gutter spouts in the shape of Gargouille, and eventually in the shape of all manner of bizarre creatures.

Hackney - Hackney comes from the Old French haquenée, meaning an ambling horse, especially one fit for ladies. It was adopted into English in the **14**th century meaning a horse of middle size or fair quality. Very early on, by **1393** at the latest, the word had also acquired the meaning of a horse for hire. Anything that is rented is bound to be worn out before its time, and by **1596** hackney was being used as an adjective meaning tired or worn out.

Hat Trick - This term is originally from cricket, c.**1877**. Taking three wickets on three bowls allegedly entitled the bowler to receive a hat from his club commemorating the feat. By **1909** it was being used in other sports.

Hobson's Choice - Tobias Hobson (c.**1544-1631**) was a Cambridge stable manager who let horses. He insisted customers take the horse in the stall closest to the door (the next one up) or take none at all. Hence, a Hobson's choice is no choice at all.

Ivy League - Ivy League is originally a sportswriter's term and was used in reference to the unofficial conference of teams also known as the Old Ten. The teams were Army, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Navy, Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Yale. In **1940**, Army and Navy dropped out of the association and the membership has remained the same ever since. The name derives from the ivy that supposedly climbs the walls at these venerable institutions.

Alarm - Originally, the French military used a call that was used to warn of approaching enemies, and that call was a variant of the Old Italian call, "all'arme," which meant, "to arms!" So the next time your alarm clock goes off, you can think of it as telling you, "to arms!" and to attack the day with gusto!

SUN - founded by **4** Stanford University buddies, SUN is the acronym for Stanford University Network.

Alone - A person who is alone is distinctly one—single, solitary, set apart from others. The word's origin reflects that emphasis of "singleness," for alone comes to us from Middle English (approximately **1100-1500**) as a compound word: all + one

Over time, the spelling was changed as the two words merged to form the new word.

Xerox- The inventor, Chestor Carlson, named his product trying to say `dry' (as it was dry copying, markedly different from the then prevailing wet copying). The Greek root `xer' means dry.

Bonfire - Bonfire originally referred to a fire made from a pile of bones. A bonfire was originally some kind of ceremonial pagan custom whereby bones, especially those of animals, that had collected over the year were heaped together and burned in a huge fire. Eventually, the bone fire shifted from such a specific application and came to mean any large outdoor fire, and the spelling became modified (bonfire)

Yahoo - The word was invented by Jonathan Swift and used in his book Gulliver's Travels. It represents a person who is repulsive in appearance and action and is barely human. Yahoo! founders Jerry Yang and David Filo selected the name because they considered themselves yahoos. However, Yahoo! today claims a sort of backformed acronym — Yet Another Hierarchical Officious Oracle.

Colonel - Why is it that we pronounce this word like kernel but we spell it so differently? As is the case with most questions about spelling, the answer lies in the etymology. The spelling comes to us from Italian, colonello, which meant, "commander of a column." The colonel was the officer who led the column of soldiers. However, by the time the word had gone through the French, it was pronounced and spelled differently (coronel), and it was this form of the word that came to English later around the sixteenth century.

Companion - These days we tend to think of a companion as a friend or person who either accompanies or associates with another person, a comrade, or one who is hired to assist, live with, or travel with another person, such as a caregiver or a travel companion.

Originally, however, a companion was one with whom you shared bread, or a meal (cf, "break bread"). The word companion comes to us from Latin: com- ("together") + pan(is) ("bread"). This specific original meaning has since spread, become more general, to refer to any friend or associate with whom we spend time.

Cybernetics - Cybernetics is the "theoretical study of control processes, in electrical, mechanical, or biological systems, especially the mathematical analysis of the flow of information of such systems." However, the original meaning of cybernetic referred to the person who steered or guided the ship through dangerous channels. So what's the connection? When early Greek sailors traveled, they did not have the luxury as do our modern-day
sailors of being able to use radar devices to tell them if they were getting in too shallow of waters or if they were in danger of colliding with anything. Instead, they had to rely upon a person whose job it was to peer over the ship and give directions so that the ship did not wreck. Cybernetic comes to us from the Greek word, kubernetes, meaning "pilot, governor," which came from Greek kuberman, meaning, "to steer, guide." Hence, if something is cybernetic in nature, it steers or guides something so that nothing gets too far out of line one way or the other.

Escape - Escape comes to us from Latin with the etymological meaning, "out or off of cloak," and that is pretty much what happened. If a person was trying to escape from the

clutches of someone, he would "throw off his cape" in an effort to create a diversion and trip up the pursuer.

Mortgage - Etymologically speaking, mortgage literally means, "dead pledge" or a "pledge of death." It comes to us from Latin:

mort ("death") + gage ("pledge"). Remember what a mortgage is: It is a legal pledge that says the person will pay a specified amount of money for a piece of property, and so to guarantee that that payment is fully made within the time specified, the property is "pledged" to the creditor who so that should the person buying the property fail to make payment, the property belongs to the creditor and is hence "dead" (no more, no longer available) to the tenant.

Salary - Salary has a very interesting past. What would you say if your boss, instead of offering you such a large salary for the work you did, offered you a smaller salary and some salt? Most likely, you wouldn't think this was such a good offer. However, there was a time when being salt was worth a great deal to people, and a portion of the money they received was used exclusively for buying salt.

When the Roman soldiers were building roads and fighting wars, they were often working in extremely hot and harsh conditions, conditions which depleted their necessary reserves of salt that all people need in their systems. So, they were paid wages in the form of money that could be used to buy salt. This wage was called salarium. Eventually, any connection with the purchase of salt erased over time and the word salary simply means some kind of monetary payment a person receives at certain intervals or periods of time.

Villain - When the Normans conquered England, French language became the dominant language of law and the courts. There was also a distinct separation of class, and the common folk who worked the fields and lived in the rural areas were looked up with some disdain by their French noble neighbours. These people who worked the fields and did the labor for the nobility lived in the village. There was a common sentiment that the people who lived in
the village were somehow beneath the nobility, that these people could not be trusted, that they would often steal from the nobility. Hence, the sense of a bad person came to be associated with this word, and the villains were those people who lived "in the village": villa ("villa, village") + in ("in"). And while villains are no longer considered to be people who necessarily live in a village, the association of the person being a bad person has remained with the word.

Trivia - The derivation of the word trivia comes from the Latin for "crossroads": "tri-" + "via", which means three streets. This is because in ancient times, at an intersection of three streets in Rome (or some other Italian place), they would have a type of kiosk where ancillary information was listed. You might be interested in it, you might not, hence they were bits of "trivia."

Nemesis - From the Greek of the same, originally meant, "the act of distributing or apportioning" and later became, "(divine) wrath and retribution, righteous indignation at the breach of rules." Nemesis was a deity who restores the balance.

Apple - Favourite fruit of founder Steve Jobs. He was three months late in filing a name for the business, and he threatened to call his company Apple Computers if his colleagues

didn't suggest a better name by 5pm. Apple's Macintosh is named after a popular variety of apple sold in the US.

Exchequer - The Moors introduced the Abacus to Europe so that the Europeans could multiply, and the monks spread this device throughout Europe. In Britain, it was used but with their own twist to it: they used a checkboard and checker-like pieces (rather than the usual rods and beads) — and this British version gave rise to the "exchequer" in "Chancellor of the Exchequer."

Canon - from Kwanon the Buddhist god of mercy. The name was changed to Canon to avoid offending religious groups.

Coward - From the Old French "coe" meaning "tail." The OED adds, "The precise reference to tail is uncertain: it may be to an animal `turning tail' in flight, or to the habit in frightened animals of drawing the tail between the hinder legs. A coward is thus, literally, someone who "turns his tail and runs."

Cisco - its not an streeets but its the short for San Francisco.

Algebra - This term, which means "the science of equations" in English—and which conjures up fear in the hearts of most fifth and sixth graders—comes from the title of one of al-Khowarizmi's treatises, "Hisab AL-JAHR w'almuqaBAlah" (emphasis added), which means, "Science of Transposition and Cancellation.

Compaq - using Comp, for computer, and paq to denote a small integral object.

Allegory - From Greek allos meaning "other" and agora meaning gathering place (especially the marketplace). In times past, it was common to do one's chatting at the marketplace. Some of the topics discussed were clandestine in nature and when people spoke about them, for fear of being punished, they would speak indirectly. That is to say, they would speak about one thing in such a way as to intimate the actual information to the listener. Thus, the persons discussing clandestine matters were said to be speaking of "other things" in the marketplace. Eventually the words joined and became associated with the act of speaking about one thing while meaning another.

Ku-Klux Klan - Ku-Klux is a variation on the Greek kuklos meaning circle. The Klan is obviously from clan, with the k used for alliterative purposes. The name dates to **1867** and was chosen by the group's founders. Their exact reasons for the choice are unknown, but a circle implies a secret circle or society, a symbol for continuity, a symbol for perfection, and lots of other mystical imagery.

Corel - from the founder's name Dr. Michael Cowpland. It stands for COwpland REsearch Laboratory.

Mayhem- Mayhem is derived from the Vulgar Latin verb mahagnare, meaning to wound. This passed into Old French as mahaignier and on into Middle English as mayn. The verb form became the word we know today as maim, but the noun form mahaing eventually became mayhem. The modern form of the word dates to the **14**th century and originally was a legal term, Mayhem being the crime of inflicting severe injury on another. Over the centuries the meaning shifted to riotous behavior and chaos.

News - No, news is not an acronym for north, east, west, and south. In fact, there are no pre-**20**th century words that are derived as acronyms—acronyms are a distinctly **20**th century phenomenon. Rather, the word comes (quite obviously) from new—meaning something that has not existed before, something timely.

Google - the name started as a jokey boast about the amount of information the search-engine would be able to search. It was originally named `Googol', a word for the number represented by **1** followed by **100** zeros. After founders - Stanford grad students Sergey Brin and Larry Page presented their project to an angel investor, they received a cheque made out to `Google' !

Pagan - While the etymology is very different, this word developed in a similar semantic pattern as heathen. The English word pagan is from the Latin paganus or someone who lives in a rural district, or pagus. In Latin, the word meant a villager or rustic, and was also used as an antonym for miles, or soldier. In English usage, it means a non-Christian, or someone who is not a soldier of Christ, a sense that had developed in the Latin by the **4**th century AD.

HP - Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard tossed a coin to decide whether the company they founded would be called Hewlett-Packard or Packard-Hewlett.

Pandemonium - The term was coined by Milton in Paradise Lost. Pandemonium was originally hell. Literally, it means the place of all demons. By a century later (c.**1779**) the term was in use as a reference to place that was like hell. And a century after that, it had come to mean a wild and lawless place—a rather natural progression.

Hitachi - stands for "sunrise" in Japanese.

Paparazzi - Paparazzi, plural of Paparazzo, comes from the name of a character in Fellini's La Dolce Vita. In the movie, Paparazzo was a photographer who would go to great lengths to take pictures of American movie stars.

Hotmail - Founder Jack Smith got the idea of accessing e-mail via the web from a computer anywhere in the world. When Sabeer Bhatia came up with the business plan for the mail service, he tried all kinds of names ending in `mail' and finally settled for hotmail as it included the letters "html" - the markup language used to write web pages. It was initially referred to as HoTMaiL with selective upper casing.

Red Herring - This term for deliberate misdirection comes from hunting. Poachers would interpose themselves between the prey and the hunting party and drag a red herring across the trail to mislead the dogs. This would give them the opportunity to bag the prey themselves. A red herring was chosen because dog trainers often used the pungent fish to create a trail when training their hounds. The dogs, upon encountering the herring scent, would follow that trail as it was the one they had been trained with.

Intel - Bob Noyce and Gordon Moore wanted to name their new company `Moore Noyce' but that was already trademarked by a hotel chain, so they had to settle for an acronym of INTegrated ELectronics.

Sabbatical - In modern use, a sabbatical is a period (usually a semester or a year) during which a teacher or professor has no teaching duties and may pursue research or other work. Originally, sabbaticals were not granted more often than once every seven years.

But sabbatical has an older sense that provides the key to its etymology. It is an adjective relating to the Jewish Sabbath. The term sabbatical year (**1599**) refers to Mosaic law that declares that all slaves must be freed and debts forgiven every seven years. The educational sense focused on the seven year requirement, hence the term, although the imagery of being released from slavery was probably appealing as well. The word is taken from the sabbatum, which in turn is from the Hebrew shabbath, denoting the seventh day of the week.

Lotus - Mitch Kapor got the name for his company from `The Lotus Position' or `Padmasana'. Kapor used to be a teacher of Transcendental Meditation technique as taught by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

S.O.S. - The international Morse code distress signal, S.O.S., is another "word" with a false acronymic origin. S.O.S. does not stand for Save Our Souls, Save Our Ship, Stop Other Signals, Sure Of Sinking, or any other phrase.

S.O.S. was chosen as the universal distress signal by the International Radio Telegraph Convention of July **1908** because this combination of three dots followed by three dashes followed by three dots (...—...), was easy to send and easily recognized, especially since they were usually sent as a nine-character signal, which stood out against the background of three-character Morse Code letters. The letters themselves are meaningless.

Prior to **1908**, the high seas distress signal consisted of the letters C.Q.D., which many took it to mean Come Quickly, Danger. Actually this term is a combination of the letters C & Q, the standard radio hail meaning essentially "calling all stations" or "is anyone out there?" and the nonsense letter D.

Microsoft - coined by Bill Gates to represent the company that was devoted to MICROcomputer SOFTware. Originally christened Micro-Soft, the `-' was removed later on.

Taliban - The word Taliban is from the Farsi/Pushtu Talib, meaning student (the root is a borrowing from Arabic.. The Taliban were originally Afghan students in Islamic religious schools, or madrassas, in Pakistan. In **1993**, they formed into a militant political group and returned to Afghanistan, bringing their own particular version of conservative Sunni Islam to that country. By **1996**, they had become the dominant military and political force in the country, capturing the capital, Kabul.

Motorola - Founder Paul Galvin came up with this name when his company started manufacturing radios for cars. Many audio equipment makers of the era used the "ola" ending for their products, most famously the "Victrola" phonograph made by the Victor Talking Machine Company.

Third World - This political term is originally French. Tiers Monde was coined in **1956** by G. Balandier. The English is a literal translation of the French. The First World is the industrialized West, the Second World are the Communist nations of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and the Third World are all the rest.

Nintendo - Nintendo is composed of **3** Japanese Kanji characters, Nin-ten-do which can be translated to "Heaven blesses hard work"

Adobe - came from name of the river Adobe Creek that ran behind the house of founder John Warnock.

SAP - "Systems, Applications, Products in Data Processing", formed by **4** ex-IBM employees who used to work in the `Systems/Applications/Projects' group of IBM.

brownie points- This term derives from the girl scouts. That organization had (has?) a system of points that the girls would accumulate toward advancement.

The phrase entered the general language from WWII in military slang. Uniforms, the army's tendency to have soldiers do things that seemed silly and child-like, and evocation of brown-nose all contributed to the popularity of the phrase

Barbecue- This American contribution to international cuisine actually originated in the Caribbean, and the word comes to us via Spanish from its Indian roots. The original sense of barbecue is that of a raised, wooden (later metal) framework used for either sleeping upon or curing meats. The Indians of Guiana called it a babracot and the Haitians a barbacòa. The Spanish acquired the Haitian word and it came into English from the Spanish.

fifth column- This term for a group of insurgents, traitors, or spies is a calque from Spanish. It dates to **1936** and the Spanish Civil War. That year, Nationalist general Emilio Mola had surrounded Madrid with four military columns and declared that he had a quinta columna within the besieged city. The quotation was widely reported in British and American newspapers and the term quickly caught on and generalized.

graveyard shift- This term for a late-night work shift dates to around the turn of the **20**th century. It is a reference to the desolation and loneliness of late-night work. The term gets it start in nautical circles with the form graveyard watch.

kick the bucket- This evocative phrase meaning to die is of uncertain etymology. The most likely explanation is that it does not refer to a washing tub or pail, the sense of bucket that most of us are familiar with. Instead, it comes from another sense of bucket meaning a yoke or beam from which something can be hung. The imagery evoked by the phrase is that of an animal being hung up for slaughter, kicking the beam from which it is suspended in its death throes.

let the cat out of the bag- To let the cat out of the bag is to reveal a secret. But where does the phrase come from? What is the cat doing in the bag and what has this to do with secrets?

The phrase is a reference to an old scam in which a cat would be surreptitiously substituted for a suckling pig that had just been purchased at market. The cat would be placed in the bag in the hopes that the customer would not look into it until they were some distance away.

money laundering- To launder money is to pass money from an illegal source through a legitimate business so that the illegal origin of the funds cannot be traced. The phrase can be traced back to the Watergate scandal of **1973**, as evidenced from this citation from the Guardian newspaper of **19** April of that year:

Suitcases stuffed with **200,000** dollars of Republican campaign funds; money being "laundered" in Mexico.

wild goose chase- In modern usage, a wild goose chase is a fruitless endeavor, a hopeless quest. But it was not always so. The original sense was kind of horse race where

one rider would lead a group of pursuers along an erratic course, much like a flock of geese might follow its leader.

with a grain of salt- After the defeat of that mighty monarch, Mithridates, Gnaeus Pompeius found in his private cabinet a recipe for an antidote in his own handwriting; it was to the following effect: Take two dried walnuts, two figs, and twenty leaves of rue; pound them all together, with the addition of a grain of salt; if a person takes this mixture fasting, he will be proof against all poisons for that day.)

So to take something with a grain of salt is to guard against its noxious effects.

tongue in cheek- It was once the practice to signal contempt for someone or something by making a bulge in your cheek with your tongue. By the first half of the **19**th century, the idea of speaking with one's tongue in one's cheek had come to mean to speak insincerely.

Murphy's Law- If anything can go wrong, it will." That is Murphy's Law. But who was Murphy?

The standard story is that the term was coined in **1949**. The Murphy in question is Captain Ed Murphy, a development engineer assigned to Colonel J.P. Stapp's research on the rocket sleds that tested the limits of human endurance to acceleration and deceleration at Muroc Field, California (later renamed Edwards AFB). Murphy was referring to a particular technician, whose name has been lost to history, who had wired a piece of equipment incorrectly when he remarked, "if there is any way to do things wrong, he will." A few weeks later in a press conference, Stapp allegedly credited his program's safety record to planning for Murphy's Law. The rest was history.

pipe dream- Pipe dream is US slang dating from the **1890**s. It's a reference to smoking opium and having fantastic hallucinations. From the Chicago Daily Tribune of **11** December **1890**:

It [flying] has been regarded as a pipe-dream for a good many years.

The word pipe has been used as a synonym for opium smoking since the mid-**19**th century. From Robert Fortune's **1847** Three Years' Wanderings in the Northern Provinces of China:

These infatuated people may be seen...laughing and talking wildly under the effects of a first pipe.

pull the wool over one's eyes- To pull the wool over someone's eyes is to deceive them. The metaphor behind this phrase is quite straightforward, but not readily apparent today. The wool refers to a powdered wig. To pull the wool down over a man's eyes is to temporarily blind him. The phrase is an Americanism and variants include the use of the verbs to draw and to spread, in addition to pull.

at sixes and sevens- At sixes and sevens means in confusion or disorder. It is a very old catchphrase and originally relating to gambling with dice. There are many minor variants of the phrase. Sometimes and is replaced with or at is replaced by on or set on. The plural numbers also occasionally appear as singular.

It originally referred to betting one's entire fortune on one throw of the dice. It connoted carelessness, and over time the phrase came to mean confusion, disorder, and disagreement.

And here is the word list...

821. ubiquitous: being everywhere.

822. ukase: an edict.

823. ululate: to howl; to wail.

824. umbrage: offense; resentment.

825. unctuous: marked by a false or smug earnestness or agreeableness.

826. unfledged: not fully developed; immature.

827.unguent: an ointment.

828. untoward: not favorable or fortunate; also, improper.

829. upbraid: to scold or criticize harshly.

830. urbane: polished and smooth in manner.

831. uxorious: excessively fond of or submissive to a wife.

832. vade mecum: a book or other thing that one regularly carries about.

833. vagary: an extravagant, erratic, or unpredictable notion, action, or occurrence.

834. vainglory: excessive pride or vain display.

835. valetudinarian: a weak or sickly person.

836. vapid: flat; dull; spiritless.

837. varicolored: having a variety of colors.

838. variegated: having marks or patches of different colors; also, varied.

839. venal: capable of being bought; also, corruptible.

840. venerate: to treat with deep respect.

841. venial: capable of being forgiven; vexcusable.

842. verbose: wordy.

843. verdant: green.

844. verdure: greenness.

845. verisimilitude: the quality of seeming to be true.

846. veritable: real; true; genuine.

847. vertiginous: causing dizziness; also, giddy; dizzy.

848. vet: to subject to thorough appraisal; to evaluate.

849. vicissitude: a change in condition or fortune.

850. vim: energy; vigor.

851. virago: an ill-tempered, overbearing woman; also, a woman of great strength and courage.

852. virtu: love of or taste for fine objects of art; also, productions of art.

853. visage: the face; also, appearance; aspect.

854. vitiate: to make faulty or imperfect.

855. vituperation: abusive language.

856. vivify: to endue with life; to enliven.

857. vociferous: clamorous; noisy.

858. volte-face: an about-face.

859. voluble: characterized by a ready flow of speech.

860. voluptuary: a person devoted to luxury and the gratification of sensual appetites.

861. votary: one devoted to some pursuit, worship, study, or way of life.

862. wan: pale; also, lacking vitality or intensity.

863. wastrel: a person who wastes; a loafer

864. waylay: to ambush or accost.

865. wayworn: wearied by traveling.

866. wheedle: to entice by flattery

867. winsome: light-hearted.

868. woebegone: woeful; also, run-down.

869. woolgathering: indulgence in idle daydreaming.

870. wunderkind: one who achieves success or acclaim during youth.

871. xenophobia: fear or hatred of what is strange or foreign.

872. yeasty: frothy; foamy; spumy, like yeast.

873. yen: a strong desire or inclination.

874. Zeitgeist: the spirit of the time.

Learning is Fun!

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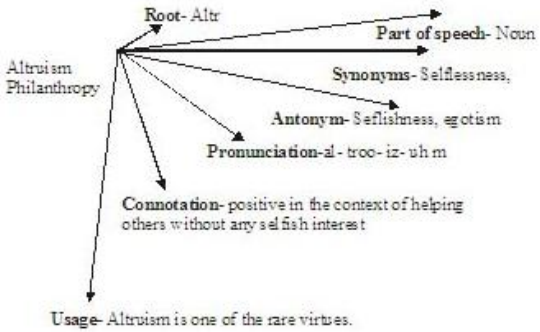
Learning is Fun!

Every word has a distinct identity, and to use it correctly, one should know it well enough. Word Matrix is an innovative concept that stresses on multidimensional knowledge of a particular word. A word has been given below, which has been looked upon in its entirety. If you do this exercise with a variety of difficult words, your knowledge of language will grow with leaps and bounds.



Learning Outcomes :

- Mastering of commonly confused words.
- Developing vocabulary for Reading Comprehension.
- Mastering an interesting set of phrases and the stories behind them.

The Final take

Learning Objectives

· Learn to spell correctly.

· Master the exhaustive word list.

The Sixth Step..

Now is the time to assess the learning outcomes. A few tests are given in the end of this chapter. Solve them. But remember, journey is not over. You have not even reached midway. Developing vocabulary is an ongoing process.

It is advisable that while going through words one should pay attention to their spellings as well.

Some words in English are misspelled frequently.

- accelerate
- accidentally (*accidently*)
- accommodate
- accordion (*accordian*)
- accumulate
- acquaintance (*acquaintence,*
- *aquaintance*)
- acquire (*aquire*)
- acquit (*aquit*)
- aficionado
- a lot (*alot*)
- amateur
- anoint
- apology
- argument (*arguement*)
- atheist
- a while (*awhile*)
- axle (*axel*)

- barbecue (*barbeque*)
- believable (*believeable*)
- believe
- broccoli (*brocolli*)
- camouflage
- cantaloupe
- carburetor
- Caribbean
- cartilage
- cemetery (*cemetary*)
- chauvinism (*chauvanism*)
- chili
- chocolaty (*chocolatey*)
- coliseum, also colosseum (*colliseum*)
- collectible (*collectable*)
- colonel
- commemorate
- congratulations
- conscious
- consensus
- coolly
- daiquiri
- Dalmatian (*Dalmation*)
- deceive
- defendant
- definite (*definate*)
- desiccate
- desperate
- deterrence
- development (*developement*)

- diorama
- disappear
- disappoint
- dissipate
- drunkenness (*drunkeness*)
- dumbbell (*dumbell*)
- ecstasy
- embarrass
- exercise (*excercise*)
- exhilarate
- existence (*existance*)
- Fahrenheit
- fiery (*firey*)
- flabbergast (*flabberghast*)
- flotation (*floatation*)
- frustum (*frustrum*)
- gauge
- genius (*genious; see "ingenious"*)
- grammar (*grammer*)
- gross

l guttural

- handkerchief (*hankerchief*)
- harass (*harrass*)
- horrific
- hypocrisy
- imitate
- immediately
- inadvertent (*inadvertant*)
- incidentally (*incidently*)
- incredible

- independent
- indispensable (*indispensible*)
- ingenious (*ingenius; see "genius"*)
- inoculate (*innoculate*)
- irascible
- irresistible (*irresistable*)
- its (*it's*)
- judgment (*judgement*)
- led (*lead*)
- liaison
- lieutenant
- liquefy (*liquify*)
- lose (*loose*)
- maneuver, also manoeuvre
- marshmallow (*marshmellow*)
- medieval, also mediaeval
- memento (*momento*)
- millennium (*millenium*)
- minuscule (*miniscule*)
- mischief (*mischeif*)
- mischievous (*mischievious*)
- misogyny
- missile
- misspell (*mispell*)
- nauseous
- necessary
- no one (*noone*)
- occasion
- occurrence
- octopus

- onomatopoeia
- parallel
- parliament
- pastime (*pasttime*)
- peninsula
- pharaoh (*pharoah*)
- pigeon (*pidgeon*)
- pistachio (*pistacchio*)
- plagiarize
- laywright
- plenitude (*plentitude*)
- poinsettia (*pointsettia*)
- precede
- presumptuous (*presumptious*)
- proceed
- pronunciation (*pronounciation*)
- propagate
- privilege (*priviledge*)
- puerile
- pursue (*persue*)
- putrefy
- questionnaire (*questionaire*)
- raspberry
- receipt
- receive
- recommend
- refrigerator (*refridgerator*)
- renowned
- rhythm
- ridiculous

- sacrilegious
- sandal
- savvy
- seize (*sieze*)
- sensible (*sensable*)
- separate
- septuagenarian (*septagenarian*)
- sergeant
- sheriff
- shish kebab
- siege
- similar
- simile
- sorcerer (*sorceror*)
- subpoena
- supersede (*supercede*)
- tariff
- their
- there
- they're
- threshold
- tongue
- too (*to*)
- tragedy
- tyranny
- ukulele (*ukelele*)
- until (*untill*)
- vacuum
- vicious
- weird

- supersede (*supercede*)
- tariff
- their
- there
- they're
- threshold
- tongue
- too (*to*)
- tragedy
- tyranny
- ukulele (*ukelele*)
- until (*untill*)
- vacuum
- vicious
- weird
- you're (*your*)

Some more high frequency words...

Abet (v) encourage or assist someone to do something wrong

He was abetted in the deception by his wife.

Syn.: advocate, conspire, goad, incite

Absolve (v) to free from guilt or blame, acquit, vindicate

The announcement follows a police investigation yesterday which absolved the police of all blame in the incident.

Syn.: exonerate, exculpate, acquit, exempt

Abstain (v) to refrain from something

Ten people voted in favor, five against and two abstained.

Syn.: abjure, constrain, decline, eschew

Abut (v) to border upon, adjoin

One edge of the garden abutted on an old entrance to the mine.

Syn.: circumscribe, contour, define, delineate

Abysmal (adj) extremely bad or very low standard

Our abysmal record at producing scientifically trained and numerate manpower will cripple us.

Syn.: bottomless, boundless, deep, illimitable

Acerbity (n) Sourness or acidness of taste, character, or tone.

The acerbity of Osborne's two volumes of memoirs shocked a lot of people.

Syn.: acrimony, astringency, mordancy, tartness

Acme (n) the highest point of excellence

The third fashion show witnessed the acme of her collections.

Syn.: apogee, climax, culmination, meridian

Acquisitive (adj) to be very eager to amass more and more

His acquisitive nature made him unpopular in the office.

Syn.: avaricious, covetous, demanding, desirous

Acquittal (n) exonerate, discharge, free from charges

The trial resulted in acquittal on all but one count.

Syn.: absolution, acquitting, amnesty, clearance

Acrimonious (adj) bitter and caustic in temper, manner, or speech

His parents went through an acrimonious divorce.

Syn.: acerbic, belligerent, irascible, rancorous

Actuarial (adj) related to insurance statistics

The company's actuarial report must be made available on demand.

Syn.: analyst, auditor, calculator, comptroller

Adjuration (n) solemn urging

The teacher's adjuration to the students to work hard was of no avail.

Syn.: entreaty, imploration, petition, supplication

Affinity (n) A natural attraction, liking, or feeling of kinship

He has a close affinity with the landscape he knew when he was growing up.

Syn.: attraction, compatibility, partiality, rapport

Affirmation (n) approval

She nodded her head in affirmation.

Syn.: assertion, averment, avouchment, certification

Affluence (n) great plenty, abundance, wealth

The 1950s were an age of affluence in America.

Syn.: ampleness, copiousness, opulence, plentitude

Affront (n) deliberately insulting or disrespectful remark.

His speech was an affront to many in the local community.

Syn.: abuse, offend, outrage, pique

Agrarian (adj) pertaining to farming

Punjab is a rich area with a highly developed agrarian economy.

Syn.: pastoral, provincial, rustic, uncouth

Alcove (n) a recess, a niche

In the alcoves on either side of the fire were bookshelves.

Syn.: anteroom, cubicle, niche, seclusion

Alimentary (adj) nourishing

The alimentary canal in our body is the part where digestion takes place.

Syn.: comestible, digestible, nutritious, sustaining

Alimony (n) An allowance for support made under court order to a divorced person by the former spouse, usually the chief provider during the marriage.

A great deal of Jeff's money went in alimony to his three former wives.

Syn.: maintenance, provision, sustenance, upkeep

Allege (v) state without proof, assert

It is alleged that he mistreated the prisoners.

Syn.: adduce, affirm, avouch, avow

Allegory (n) fable, parable

The book is a kind of allegory of Latin American history.

Syn.: parable, symbolism, typification

Allure (v) to tempt with something desirable

Many settlers were allured by promises of easy wealth.

Syn.: beguile, bewitch, captivate, enchant

Amalgamate (v) to join together, unite, combine

A number of colleges have amalgamated to form the new university.

Syn.: consolidate, fuse, incorporate, integrate

Ambience (n) an environment, milieu

The overall ambience of the room is cozy.

Syn.: aura, bearing,

demeanour, impression

Ambiguous (adj) having two or more possible meanings

Her account was deliberately ambiguous.

Syn.: cryptic, dubious,

enigmatic, equivocal

Amble (v) to move at relaxed speed

They ambled along for miles.

Syn.: saunter, dawdle, loiter, meander

Ambulatory (adj) able to walk

He was more of an ambulatory patient than a bedridden.

Syn.: nomadic, peripatetic, roving, vagrant

Amiss (adj) wrong, faulty

She sensed something was amiss and called the police.

Syn.: awry, erroneous, flawed, foul

Amnesia (n) loss of memory

People suffering from amnesia don't forget their general knowledge of objects.

Syn.: oblivion, repression, suppression,

woolgathering

Amok (adv) in a state of rage

Some drunken students had run amok in the college car park.

Syn.: berserk, destructively, frenziedly, maniacally

Amputate (v) to cut off (an arm, leg, etc.), esp. by surgery

To save his life, doctors amputated his legs.

Syn.: dismember, eliminate, sever, truncate

Anaemia (n) condition in which blood lacks red corpuscles

The doctor ascribes her tiredness to anaemia.

Analogous (adj) similar or comparable

Sleep has often been thought of as being in some way analogous to death.

Syn.: akin, comparable, corresponding, equivalent

Anarchy (n) political disorder and violence, lawlessness

The overthrow of the military regime was followed by a period of anarchy.

Syn.: turmoil, chaos, disorder, hostility

Animosity (n) a feeling of strong dislike or hatred, ill will, hostility

He felt no animosity towards his critics.

Syn.: enmity, acrimony, antagonism, bitterness

Anneal (v) to reduce brittleness and improve toughness by heating and cooling.

After the glass is annealed, it will be less subject to chipping and cracking.

Annihilate (v) to destroy completely

The human race has enough weapons to annihilate itself.

Syn.: demolish, exterminate, obliterate, liquidate

Annotate (v) give explanations or comments

The new edition is fully annotated by the author.

Syn.: comment, construe, elucidate, interpret

Annuity (v) a payment of a fixed sum of money at regular intervals of time, esp. yearly

She receives a small annuity to support her family.

Syn.: allowance, commission, donation, grant

Anorexic (adj) to refuse to eat for fear of putting on weight

She would look better if she puts on a little weight than if she continues to remain anorexic.

Anthropoid (adj) Resembling a human, especially in shape or outward appearance

Monkeys, gorillas and chimpanzees are obviously anthropoids.

Syn.: anthropomorphic, ethnologic

Antipathy (n) strong or deep-rooted dislike, aversion

His professional judgment was colored by his personal antipathies.

Syn.: abhorrence, animosity, antagonism, aversion

Apolitical (adj) not connected with political matters

Administration should be an apolitical tool of the government.

Apothecary (n) druggist

Many apothecaries indulged in alchemy in ancient times.

Apothegm (n) a short, pithy saying

Many idioms border on apothegms and are turned into familiar sayings.

Syn.: adage, axiom, maxim, truism

Appalling (adj) shockingly bad

We were appalled by the jury's verdict in favour of the accused.

Syn.: astounding, awful, daunting, disheartening

Apparition (n) a ghostly figure, a specter

Apparitions of a woman in white robes have been reported.

Syn.: phantom, specter, delusion, hallucination

Appealing (adj) pleasantly attractive

He found her innocent expression veryappealing and toned down at once.

Syn.: attractive, charming, delectable, delightful

Apprehend (v) capture or arrest

The thief was apprehended in the act of stealing a car.

Syn.: capture, nab, seize, take prisoner

Apprise (v) to inform

We were fully apprised of the situation.

Syn.: advise, disclose, divulge, enlighten

Aquiline (adj) curved or hooked like an eagle's beak

Jug Suriya has an aquiline nose.

Arbitrate (v) to officially settle a dispute

A committee was created to arbitrate between management and the unions.

Syn.: adjudge, conciliate, mediate, parley

Arcane (adj) Known or understood by only a few

This argument may seem arcane to those not closely involved in the world of finance.

Syn.: esoteric, hidden, impenetrable, mystic

Archaic (adj) antiquated, old-fashioned

`Thou art' is an archaic form of `you are'.

Syn.: ancient, obsolete, passé, primitive

Arsenal (n) a place for storing weapons

The arsenal was set ablaze by the spies.

Syn.: armoury, depository, factory, ordnance

Artful (adj) Skillful in accomplishing a purpose, especially by the use of cunning or craft

The artful student talked her professor into giving her an A for a perfectly mundane assignment.

Syn.: adept, adroit, dexterous, ingenious

Articulate (v) to express thoughts or feelings clearly in words

She struggled to articulate her thoughts.

Syn.: enunciate, verbalize, vocalize, voice

Ascribe (v) to assign, to attribute

This play is usually ascribed to Shakespeare.

Syn.: accredit, attribute, credit, impute

Assimilate (v) to absorb and incorporate

Immigrants have been successfully assimilated into the community.

Syn.: grasp, incorporate,

ingest, understand

Astral (adj) related to stars

She was amazed to see the numerous astral bodies from telescope.

Syn.: celestial, beatific, divine, ethereal

Astringent (adj) having a harsh, biting quality

He liked the astringent taste of lemon juice.

Syn.: caustic, harsh, irritating, stinging

Asunder (adv) into pieces, apart

Many families were torn asunder by the revolution.

Syn.: disconnected, disjoined, divided, separated

Atone (v) to make amends for wrongdoing

He felt he had atoned for what he had done to his son.

Syn.: absolve, apologize, appease, correct

Atrocity (n) cruel and violent act

The killing was cold-blooded, and those who committed this atrocity should be tried and punished.

Syn.: barbarity, enormity, heinousness, horror

Attrition (n)

(i) gradual decrease in number

(ii) a rubbing away or wearing down by friction.

(i) *The company plans to cut a quarter of its workforce over six years through natural attrition and fewer hirings.*

(ii) *Abrasive foods caused the loss of the tooth structure by attrition.*

Syn.: depreciation, attenuation, debilitation, grinding

Audacious (adj) bold, daring

It was an audacious decision to implement sex education in schools.

Syn.: adventurous, brassy, brave, daredevil

Augment (v) to increase, support

While searching for a way to augment the family income, she began making dolls.

Syn.: add to, amplify, boost, compound

Aversion (n) an intense dislike, antipathy, repugnance

He had an aversion to getting up early.

Syn.: abhorrence, animosity, distaste, antipathy

Avocation (n) minor or secondary occupation

Nek Chand's avocation resulted in the famous rock garden near Chandigarh.

Syn.: diversion, occupation, pastime, recreation

Avow (v) to declare openly

An aide avowed that the President had known nothing of the deals.

Syn.: admit, affirm, assert, aver

Axiom (n) a statement universally accepted as true, maxim

The old axiom that you can only succeed through hard work is true.

Syn.: adage, aphorism, dictum, maxim

Baffle (v) to confuse

His behavior often baffles me.

Syn.: perplex, puzzle, bewilder, astound, disconcert

Baleful (adj) threatening evil, harmful

He disappeared into the night with a red nose and a baleful look.

Syn.: noxious, sinister, injurious, malevolent

Balk (v) to flinch, recoil, unpleasant, dangerous

Even biology undergraduates may balk at animal experiments.

Syn.: demur, resist, desist, dodge

Ballistic (adj) (i) Of or relating to the study of the dynamics of projectiles,

(ii) Of or relating to the study of the internal action of firearms.

(i) *The United States will decide in the fall of 2000 whether to begin deployment of a limited missile defense capable of protecting all 50 states against ballistic missiles.*

Balmy (adj) warm and pleasant

A balmy summer evening is very pleasant.

Syn.: soothing, gentle, steamy, temperate

Banal (adj) trite, commonplace

The way he presented his case in front of the jury was too banal to have any credibility.

Syn.: clichéd, conventional, dull, hackneyed

Banter (v) to joke

He bantered with reporters and posed for photographers.

Syn.: jest, josh, mock, badinage

Bard (n) A poet, especially a lyric poet

Harivansh Rai Bacchan was a famous bard.

Syn.: lyricist, metrist, odist, poetaster

Baritone (n) the range of a male voice between tenor and bass.

The audience was mesmerised by Amitabh Bachhan's baritone voice.

Syn.: alto

Bask (v) to warm oneself pleasantly, as in the sunlight

A cat was basking on the window sill.

Syn.: luxuriate, insolate, lounge, sunbathe

Bastion (n) strong defense or bulwark

Singapore was the last bastion of British defenses in South-East Asia.

Syn.: citadel, fortification, fortress, mainstay

Bauble (n) a showy but worthless or useless thing, trinket

Christmas trees are decorated with candles, fairy lights and colored baubles.

Syn.: frippery, gilt, tinsel, trimming

Bawdy (adj) indecent

We got arrested once, for singing bawdy songs in a cemetery.

Syn.: lewd, coarse, gross, indecent

Bedazzle (v) daze, confuse, dumbfound, and bewilder.

The bright lights bedazzled her.

Syn.: astound, bewilder, enchant, overwhelm

Behest (n) an order, command

The policy document was produced at the behest of John Major and other world leaders.

Syn.: bidding, charge, demand, dictate

Belittle (v) to speak of in a depreciatory or contemptuous way

She felt her husband constantly belittled her achievements.

Syn.: disparage, criticize, deprecate, derogate,

Belligerent (adj) unfriendly and aggressive

He is always very belligerent towards me.

Syn.: pugnacious, quarrelsome, contentious, bellicose

Bemoan (v) to deplore, lament

They sat bemoaning the fact that no one would give them a chance.

Syn.: bewail, complain, grieve for, mourn

Benefactor (n) a person who has given help, esp. financial help, patron

In his old age he became a benefactor of the arts.

Syn.: altruist, angel, contributor, humanitarian

Benevolence (n) kindness

A bit of benevolence from people in power is not what we need.

Syn.: charity, altruism, generosity, good will

Benign (adj) kindly

You would never have guessed his intentions from the benign gestures he makes.

Syn.: amiable, benevolent, complaisant, favourable

Bereft (adj) having lost something

The shock of his departure had left her feeling alone and bereft.

Syn.: bereaved, deprived, devoid, divested

Beseech (v) to ask earnestly, entreat, implore

Let him go, I beseech you!

Syn.: adjure, invoke, petition, supplicate

Betroth (v) to promise to marry

Alice was betrothed to a member of the royal family.

Syn.: affiance, bind, engage, espouse

Bifurcate (v) divide into two parts

As the road bifurcates ahead of the petrol pump, take the left route.

Syn.: crooked, forked, intersecting, oblique

Bigotry (n) intolerance, prejudice

He deplored religious bigotry.

Syn.: dogmatism, narrow- indedness, bias, discrimination

Bland (adj) Dull, vapid, having little flavor

It tasted bland and insipid, like warmed cardboard.

Syn.: boring, flat, insipid, monotonous

Bleary (adj)

(i) dim or blurred

(ii) vaguely outlined, indistinct

(i) *Having studied till the wee hours of the morning, most students walked into the exam hall bleary-eyed,*

(ii) *The trees were just bleary shapes.*

Syn.: blurred, cloudy, dusky, indistinct

Blemish (n) to mar or spoil, a defect.

This failure is the only blemish in his brilliant track-record.

Syn.: blot, blur, bruise, dent

Boisterous (adj) noisy and unruly

The children and the dogs raced out of the house to give me a boisterous welcome.

Syn.: brawling, clamorous, effervescent, impetuous

Bolster (v) to improve or make stronger

Falling interest rates may help to bolster up the economy.

Syn.: reinforce, boost, buoy, buttress

Brash (adj) confident in an aggressive way

Beneath his brash exterior, he's still a little boy inside.

Syn.: audacious, brazen, effervescent, impertinent

Brazen (adj) shameless

She had become brazen about the whole affair.

Syn.: audacious, immodest, impudent, tawdry

Broach (v) to introduce something

She was dreading having to broach the subject of money to her father.

Syn.: advance, approach, interject, interpose

Broadside (n) an oral or written attack

The Mayor launched a broadside against the lawyer-turned-politician.

Syn.: literature, notice, pamphlet, publication

Brook (v) to bear, endure

She would brook no criticism of her son.

Syn.: stomach, suffer, support, swallow

Browbeat (v) to frighten, threaten

They were browbeaten into accepting the offer.

Syn.: coerce, domineer, harass, intimidate

Bulbous (adj) swollen, shaped like a bulb

The brawl left him with a Bulbous Nose.

Syn.: elliptical, globular, orbicular, spherical

Bungle (v) to mismanage, botch

Two prisoners bungled an escape bid after running on either side of a lamp-post while handcuffed.

Syn.: fudge, mishandle, muff, ruin

Buoyant (adj) cheerful and active

The colony's grownups were amused to see the buoyant group of school-kids arrive in the bus.

Syn.: animated, bouncy, effervescent, jaunty

Burnish (v) to polish metal until it is smooth and shiny, improve the image

The European Parliament badly needs a president who can burnish its image.

Syn.: brighten, finish, furbish, sheen

Byzantine (adj) complicated and abstruse system

The whole process of applying to Universities abroad seems so byzantine at first, but we somehow come through it.

Syn.: arduous, convoluted, intricate, labyrinthine

Cacophony (n) harsh, displeasing sound

The businessmen chose the quiet park for their meeting in order to avoid the cacophony of their offices.

Syn.: clinker, din, dissonance, jarring

Cagey (adj) to be secretive about something

He was cagey about his future plans, perhaps he is serious about a career in politics.

Syn.: chary, circumspect, discreet, guarded

Calamity (n) an event that causes great harm or damage

The earthquake was the worst calamity in the country's history.

Syn.: disaster, catastrophe, affliction, cataclysm

Calisthenics (n) light exercise designed to promote general fitness

Calisthenics is a very good remedy for most of the health problems.

Callous (adj) heartless, insensitive

He is accused of consistently and callously ill-treating his wife.

Syn.: inured, apathetic, impassive, indurate

Camaraderie (n) friendship and trust among people

He missed the old camaraderie of life in the army.

Syn.: fellowship, brotherhood, comradeship, fraternization

Camouflage (n) way of disguising or hiding

Animals use the branches of trees as camouflage.

Syn.: façade, disguise, hide, mask

Canon (n)

(i) a member of a chapter of priests serving in a cathedral or collegiate church,

(ii) a basic law or principle to judge something

(i) *The Canon was highly revered by all.*

(ii) *Hard working people coin their own canons of business practice.*

Syn.: standard, principle, tenet, law

Capitulate (v) to submit, yield

The club eventually capitulated and now grants equal rights to women.

Syn.: bow, buckle, cede, succumb

Captivate (v) to attract somebody greatly

He was captivated by her beauty.

Syn.: enthrall, allure, dazzle, enamour

Carafe (n) a small glass bottle.

The host of the evening was presented a carafe of wine.

Syn.: canteen, cruet, decanter, flagon

Carp (v) to complain continually about unimportant matters

She's always carping at her children.

Syn.: cavil, censure, fuss, objurgate

Cartographer (n) a person who makes maps

During excavation of Mesopotamia it was found that cartographers existed there.

Cataclysm (n) a sudden violent change or disaster, upheaval

Some people are swept into religious faith by a cataclysm in their life.

Syn.: catastrophe, convulsion, debacle, deluge

Catharsis (n) purgation, esp. of the bowels, purifying of the emotions

After realizing the folly of his earlier mistakes, he underwent a catharsis at the rehabilitation centre.

Syn.: ablution, cleansing, expurgation, lustration

Cavalcade (n) a procession or sequence

The Prime Minister's cavalcade passed through the city an hour ago.

Syn.: drill, march-past, procession

Cede (v) to surrender or to give power to somebody

There is no question of our ceding authority to them.

Syn.: capitulate, convey, grant, concede

Celibacy (n) unmarried state

Bhishma of Mahabharata had taken a vow to observe celibacy.

Syn.: abstinence, chastity, virtue, continence

Censorious (adj) critical, faultfinding, captious

A censorious boss is an object of derision.

Syn.: disapproving, chiding, complaining, condemning

Cession (n) ceding or giving up (of rights, property, territory, etc.) to another

The cession of Kashmir to Pakistan is impossible.

Chafe (v) to wear away or irritate by rubbing

The collar was far too tight and it chafed her neck.

Syn.: corrode, damage, graze, impair

Challenging (adj) a demanding task

I discovered that merely getting hold of the SAT Hall Ticket is a challenging task, not to mention the test itself.

Syn.: formidable, elaborate, strenuous, exacting

Chaos (n) a state of complete confusion and disorder

The house was in chaos after the party.

Syn.: anarchy, ataxia, bedlam, disarray

Chaste (adj) pure, refined

The ascetic is widely respected for his chaste habits.

Syn.: austere, celibate, controlled, decent

Chasten (v) to punish in order to correct

He felt suitably chastened and apologized.

Syn.: abase, berate, castigate, chide

Checkered (adj) marked by changes in fortune

Rajesh had a checkered career.

Syn.: diversified, motley, mutable, variegated

Chide (v) to criticize, scold

She chided herself for being so impatient with the children.

Syn.: rebuke, reprimand, reprove, censure

Chivalry (n) polite, kind and brave behaviour

Roger seemed to revel in his old-fashioned chivalry.

Syn.: courage, courtesy, gallantry, valiance

Clamour (n) a loud confused noise

The clamour for his resignation was deafening.

Syn.: uproar, vociferation, agitation, babel

Clandestine (adj) done secretly

The manager was dismissed from his services for his clandestine activities which were against the company.

Syn.: furtive, surreptitious, covert, fraudulent

Claustrophobia (n) an extreme fear of being in a small- enclosed place

He experienced feelings of claustrophobia from being in a small place.

Cleave (v)

(i) to sever, disunite

(ii) remain faithful to

(i) *They just cleave the stone along the cracks and trim each piece with a hammer.*

(ii) *She teaches the principles she has cleaved to for more than 40 years.*

Syn.: carve, dissever, cling, cohere

Clime (n) a region or realm, esp. with reference to its climate

He left Britain for the sunnier climes of Southern France.

Syn.: conditions, temperature, aridity, humidity

Coagulate (v) to become thick and partly solid, congeal

The blood coagulates to stop wounds from bleeding.

Syn.: condense, congeal, consolidate, gel

Cognizance (n) knowledge or understanding of something

The government has, in the past, not taken cognizance of any protest unless there has been some show of violence.

Syn.: conversance, familiarity, intimacy, relationship

Coiffure (n) hairstyle

The star appeared on stage in a black leather outfit and a 1950s coiffure.

Syn.: haircut, hairdo

Comatose (adj) extremely tired and lacking in energy, affected with coma

The doctor despite his best efforts could not revive the patient from his comatose condition.

Syn.: lethargic, torpid, sleepy, somnolent

Comely (adj) pleasant to look at, attractive

Despite her mother's plea that she keeps a comely appearance, Roma prefers to wear comfortable, old clothing.

Syn.: attractive, beauteous, becoming, blooming

Commendable (adj) praiseworthy

Their commendable efforts to save the environment were greatly appreciated by all.

Syn.: admirable, creditable, exemplary, laudable

Conceit (n) vanity, self-admiration, narcissism

The ill-advised conceit of the guardian angel dooms the film from the start.

Syn.: arrogance, pride, smugness, pomposity

Conch (n) large seashell

She has a very good collection of the conches.

Conciliatory (adj) intention or effect of making angry people calm

The President's speech was hailed as a conciliatory gesture toward business.

Syn.: propitiatory, mollifying, placatory, appeasing

Conclave (n) a private meeting

The minister huddled in a conclave to take the decision.

Syn.: huddle, meet, parley, session

Concur (v) to agree

Local feeling does not necessarily concur with the press.

Syn.: accede, accord, acquiesce, assent

Concurrent (adj) occurring at the same time, existing together

Concurrent with her acting career, Shonali has managed to write two books of her own.

Syn.: coexisting, concomitant, contemporaneous, parallel

Concussion (n) violent jarring, a shock, an injury to an organ

The blow caused a mild concussion.

Syn.: bump, impact, injury, trauma

Condolence (n) an expression of sympathy with another's grief

He expressed his condolences to the families of the people who died in the incident.

Syn.: commiseration, consolation, comfort, solace

Congenital (adj) existing at birth, inherent

When John was 17, he died of a congenital heart disease.

Syn.: constitutional, inbred, indigenous, innate

Conjugal (adj) pertaining to marriage

Conjugal life has its own bliss as well as problems.

Syn.: nuptial, marital, connubial, matrimonial

Connotation (n) an idea suggested by a word in addition to its main meaning

It's just one of those words that have got so many negative connotations.

Syn.: association, overtone, essence, nuance

Consequential (adj) having important consequences, significant

From a medical standpoint, a week is usually not a consequential delay.

Syn.: considerable, far reaching, grave, substantial

Consummate (adj) to make something complete or perfect

The marriage lasted only a week and was never consummated.

Syn.: absolute, flawless, impeccable, peerless

Contempt (n) despise, scorn

I hope voters will treat his advice with the contempt it deserves.

Syn.: aversion, condescension, derision, disdain, disgust

Contentious (adj) quarrelsome

He tried to avoid any contentious wording.

Syn.: encroaching, hostile, intrusive, martial

Contraband (n) goods that are illegally taken into or out of the country

The two men were arrested for indulging in contraband.

Syn.: counterfeiting, plunder, smuggling, trafficking

Convene (v) to arrange a formal meeting

A Board of Inquiry was convened immediately after the accident.

Syn.: congregate, convoke, assemble, muster

Conviction (n)

(i) a strong belief

(ii) judgment that someone is guilty of a crime

(i) *It is our firm conviction that a step forward has been taken.*

(ii) *I am of the conviction that she committed perjury at the court*

Syn.: doctrine, dogma, certitude, condemnation

Corroborate (v) to support, confirm

The evidence was corroborated by two independent witnesses.

Syn.: authenticate, certify, document, endorse

Coup (n) sudden, illegal and often violent, change of government

He seized power in the military coup in 1998.

Syn.: feat, overthrow, plot, revolution

Covenant (n) a promise to somebody, an agreement

The gulf nations reached a covenant for the oil prices.

Syn.: bargain, bond, commitment, contract

Covert (adj) secret or hidden, making it difficult to notice

Every measure both overt and covert is being taken against terrorists.

Syn.: clandestine, camouflaged, concealed, furtive

Cryptic (adj) enigmatic, obscure, secret

He has issued a short, cryptic statement denying the spying charges.

Syn.: ambiguous, apocryphal, enigmatic, evasive

Culpable (adj) blameworthy, injurious, evil

The accident was the result of a culpable failure to consider the risks involved.

Syn.: impeachable, indictable, liable, reprehensible

Curator (n) caretaker, in charge

Being the curator, it was his responsibility to think of the possible ways to raise funds.

Syn.: custodian, janitor, supervisor, warden

Cursory (adj) hastily done, superficial

I was in a hurry, so I just gave her a cursory look.

Syn.: passing, perfunctory

Curtail (v) to limit

NATO plans to curtail the number of troops being sent to the region.

Syn.: diminish, reduce, abbreviate

Dank (adj) damp, cold and unpleasant

The kitchen was dank and cheerless.

Syn.: chilly, dewy, humid, moist

Daunt (v) discourage, intimidate

She was a brave woman but she felt daunted by the task ahead.

Syn.: appall, bully, consternate, deter

Dawdle (v) to waste time

They dawdled along by the river, laughing and talking.

Syn.: amble, dally, loiter, procrastinate

Debauch (v) leading away from virtue, being corrupt

A major reason for the collapse of many industrial leaders has been their indulgence in sheer debauchery.

Syn.: debase, defile, deprave, intrigue

Debunk (v) expose while ridiculing, especially of pretentious or false claims.

His theories have been debunked by recent research.

Syn.: deflate, demystify, disparage, ridicule

Decoy (n) something used as a trap, bait, lure

The decoy successfully entrapped the corrupt official.

Syn.: allurement, camouflage, ensnarement, enticement

Decry (v) to criticize something publicly

The measures were decried as useless.

Syn.: abuse, asperse,

calumniate, censure

Defalcate (v) to steal or misuse funds entrusted to one.

The bureaucrat who was indicted for defalcation was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

Syn.: appropriate, filch, forge, pilfer

Defamatory (adj) untruths about someone to spoil their reputation

Nicole ignores all the defamatory articles that are written about her.

Syn.: abusive, calumnious, denigrating, derogatory

Defection (n) desertion

Recent changes in the policy have resulted in large-scale defections from the party.

Syn.: alienation, disloyalty, disownment, strangement

Defiant (adj) boldly resisting authority or an opposing force, refusing to obey

The terrorists sent a defiant message to the government.

Syn.: insubordinate, recalcitrant, audacious, insolent

Defile (v) to make something dirty, pollute

Many victims of burglary feel that their homes have been defiled.

Syn.: adulterate, besmirch, contaminate, debase

Deft (adj) skilful and quick, dexterous

He finished off the painting with a few deft strokes of the brush.

Syn.: adept, adroit, ingenious, proficient

Deleterious (adj) harmful and damaging

The fear of crime is having a deleterious effect on community life.

Syn.: pernicious, unhealthy, estructive, detrimental

Delinquent (adj) showing a tendency to commit crimes especially by young people

He was known to be a delinquent young man.

Syn.: censurable, criminal, culpable, derelict

Delirious (adj) insane, wandering in mind

He became delirious and could not recognize people.

Syn.: demented, crazy, aberrant, deranged

Delude (v) to deceive

He's deluding himself if he thinks it's going to be easy.

Syn.: beguile, dupe, hoax, con

Deluge (n) a flood, an excessive flow

When the snow melts, the mountain stream becomes a deluge.

Syn.: flux, inundation, spate, torrent

Delusion (n) a false belief, the act of deluding.

It is a delusion to think, success can be achieved without effort.

Syn.: misconception, apparition, chicanery, deception

Demur (v) to object to something

At first she demurred but finally agreed to come with us.

Syn.: oppose, remonstrate, resist, vacillate

Demure (adj) sober, modest

She wore a demure navy blouse with a white collar.

Syn.: bashful, affected, diffident, prim

Denigrate (v) to criticize unfairly

I didn't want to denigrate her achievements.

Syn.: asperse, besmirch, disparage, impugn

Depose (n) dethrone.

After the jury gave its decision, the president of the committee was deposed from the post.

Syn.: displace, impeach, oust, overthrow

Deposition (n) testimony under oath

He made his deposition in the judge's chamber.

Syn.: affidavit, affirmation, declaration, evidence

Deranged (adj) unsettled, insane

Three years ago today a deranged man shot and killed 14 people in the main square.

Syn.: berserk, delirious, demented, lunatic

Derision (n) ridicule

After the kind of derision his proposal was subject to, it is almost a wonder that it was finally approved.

Syn.: contempt, disparagement, mockery, satire

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Despondent (adj) depressed, gloomy

She was becoming increasingly despondent about the way things were going.

Syn.: dejected, despairing, disconsolate, disheartened

Despot (n) (i) a ruler with great power

(ii) a tyrant or oppressor

The king was generally regarded as having been a despot.

Syn.: autocrat, czar, monarch, totalitarian

Destitute (adj) very poor, poverty stricken

When he died, his family was left completely destitute.

Syn.: impoverished, penniless, bankrupt, bereft

Deter (v) to prevent, hinder

The high price of the service could deter people from seeking advice.

Syn.: avert, caution, dampen, daunt

Detour (n) deviation

The detour was a blessing in disguise as it provided us an opportunity to see the village.

Syn.: bypass, circuit, divergence, diversion

Devastating (n) to destroy with its effect

I should have been devastated by the public castigation, but I shrugged it off.

Syn.: dire, fatal, grievous, ruinous

Devoid (adj) lacking, destitute, empty

The novel was devoid of wit inventiveness.

Syn.: dispossessed, divested, fleeced, impoverished

Devout (adj) believing strongly in a particular religion

He is a devout Christian.

Syn.: adherent, fervent, intense, ardent

Dexterous skilled in use of hands, mental skill

He is very dexterous and can bring the audience to their feet when he plays the drums.

Syn.: proficient, adept, adroit, ingenious

Diadem (n) a crown worn as a sign of royalty.

The kings diadem had jewels embedded in it.

Syn.: coronet, garland, headdress, wreath

Diaphanous (adj) a very transparent cloth, gossamer

A diaphanous silk veil looks very graceful.

Syn.: pellucid, sheer, tiffany, translucent

Didactic (adj) designed to teach, instructive

The didactic qualities of this movie are more important than the entertainment it provides.

Syn.: edifying, enlightening, pedagogic, exhortative

Digress (v) to wander

I do not mind her habit of digressing, she's such a good raconteur.

Syn.: aberrate, circumlocate, deflect, divagate

Dilate (v) cause to expand.

The doctor put the eye drops in order to dilate the pupils before the surgery.

Syn.: enlarge, improve, magnify, spread

Dilatory (adj) intending to delay

The government has been dilatory in dealing with the problem of unemployment.

Syn.: tardy, procrastinating, dallying, laggard

Dipsomaniac (n) a person who has a strong desire for alcoholic drink

It is hard for a dipsomaniac to control his desire even in penury.

Syn.: alcoholic, drunkard, guzzler, inebriate

Disapprobation (n) disapproval

The bill could not pass in parliament because of opposition's disapprobation.

Syn.: denunciation, deprecation, disparagement, ostracism

Disarming (adj) to make a person feel less hostile

I expected him to be brash and stiff, but he gave me a disarming smile.

Syn.: appeasing, assuaging, placating, propitiative

Discern (v) to be aware of, detect

I could discern an air of tension in the room.

Syn.: apprehend, ascertain, detect

Discomfiture (n) to feel discomfort

She was discomfited by his looming presence and tried to avoid his eyes.

Syn.: discomposure, embarrassment, humiliation, perturbation

Discreet (adj) cautious in speech or action

Emma was afraid that he might blurt out her secret, but he gave her a reassuring look that meant that he would be discreet.

Syn.: cautious, chary, circumspect

Disdain (v) treat with scorn or contempt.

Never show disdain for anyone you don't know when you might need them.

Syn.: abhor, belittle, deride, despise

Disdainful (adj) showing contempt

"Oh, so you are the secretary's son?", she asked disdainfully.

Syn.: arrogant, complaisant, egotistic, supercilious

Disenfranchise (v) deprive of voting rights.

The civilians were disenfranchised and placed under military rule.

Syn.: capture, chain, check, circumscribe

Dispirited (adj) depressed

He finally left for home, utterly dispirited and bone-tired.

Syn.: dejected, despondent, disconsolate, dismal

Disputatious (adj) fond of argument

She is a very disputatious person by nature and just falls for any bait.

Syn.: cantankerous, caviling, contentious, controversial

Disquietude (n) uneasiness, anxiety

There was a strange sense of disquietude in the air.

Syn.: angst, apprehension, botheration, misgiving

Dissipate (v) to disperse, to waste foolishly.

My savings dissipated in the blink of an eye.

Syn.: deplete, expend, fritter, squander

Distend (v) to swell or expand as if from internal pressure.

His veins on the forehead distend whenever he is upset.

Syn.: amplify, augment, bloat, bulge

Diurnal (adj) occurring in a 24-hour period or daily

Diurnal flowers are open during the day and closed at night.

Syn.: circadian, common, everyday, per idem

Docile (adj) easy to discipline

The docile student was ill-treated by the bully.

Syn.: accommodating, acquiescent, amenable, compliant, timid

Doff (v) take off

The gentleman doffed his hat in presence of the gracious lady.

Syn.: bare, remove, uncover

Dogmatic (adj) insisting that one's beliefs must be accepted

He is very dogmatic in his approach and does not care about others.

Syn.: arrogant, assertive, bigoted, despotic

Doleful (adj) miserable and moping

The nightingale sang a doleful tune in the moonlight.

Syn.: afflicted, crestfallen, dejected, dolorous

Dolorous (adj) sorrowful, sad

The dolorous conversation of the bereaved family greatly disturbed me.

Syn.: afflicted, anguished, lamentable

Dorsal (adj) relating to the backside

Because of a severe pain in the dorsal region, he cannot sleep straight.

Syn.: posterior, rear, hind, retra

Dotage (n) a deterioration of mental faculties

Old people are endearing in their dotage.

Syn.: decrepitude, fatuity, imbecility, senility

Dote (v) excessively fond of

Grandparents dote on their grandchildren.

Syn.: adore, cherish, idolize, treasure

Dowdy (v) not neat or smart in dress

A good wardrobe though necessary, is not a sufficient condition to change a person who is dowdy.

Syn.: decrepit, dilapidated, dishevelled, seedy

Dregs (n) worthless residue

Dump this where the rest of the dregs have been dumped.

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Syn.: crust, husks, refuse, shard

Duplicitous (adj) treacherous, marked by duplicity

I did not trust the duplicitous clerk, so I took the matter to the officer-in-charge.

Syn.: crafty, criminal, deceitful, devious

Duress (n) force

The management had to give in to the demands posed by the workers under duress.

Syn.: intimidation, menacing, persuasion, threat

Dyspeptic (adj) suffering from indigestion or bad temper

The dyspeptic man was extremely irritable.

Syn.: annoyed, cantankerous, choleric, contentious

Éclat (n) brilliant, great

They gave him more éclat than he really deserved.

Syn.: acclaim, plaudit, splendour, ceremonial elegance

Eclectic (adj) a collection of a great variety

He has an eclectic collection of stamps and coins from all over the world.

Syn.: assorted, broad, diverse, heterogeneous

Edict (n) decree (especially one issued by a sovereign), official command

The citizens welcomed this new edict with joy.

Syn.: announcement, injunction, mandate

Edify (v) instruct or correct morally

The purpose of the moral education session that was held at the end of the academic year was to edify the outgoing class.

Syn.: abridge, advise, apprise, enlighten

Effeminate (adj) show qualities attributed to a women such as delicacy, weakness, etc.

His effeminate qualities made him the butt of several jokes.

Syn.: delicate, emasculate, epicene, pansy

Effervescent (adj) lively and entertaining

The effervescent teenager laughed heartily and everyone around in the restaurant smiled amusedly.

Syn.: animated, buoyant, ebullient, vivacious

Efficacy (n) power to produce the desired effect

The efficacy of the solution that the scientist has provided can only be tested through a practical test.

Syn.: adequacy, aptitude, competence, efficiency

Egalitarian (adj) advocating full political and social equality for all people.

Mahatma Gandhi believed in an egalitarian society.

Syn.: dispassionate, equable, impartial, unprejudiced

Egress (n) an exit, emergence, a path

Water issued from the egress in the wall.

Syn.: departure, doorway, escape, exodus

Elegiac (adj) showing sadness, wistfulness

The elegiac music made me stop in my tracks and go down memory lane.

Syn.: idyllic, imaginative, lyrical, melodious

Emancipate (v) to set free (a slave, etc.)

The emancipation of women has been quite pronounced in the 20th century.

Syn.: liberate, manumit, release, unfetter

Emasculate (v) to weaken

The basic rights of women have been emasculated in this feudal regime.

Syn.: alter, debilitate, deprive, mutilate

Emasculation (n) weakening of masculinity or virility.

Centuries of slavery have emasculated the native citizens of the country.

Embargo (n) any legal restriction of commerce

The embargo on the sale of spices has been lifted.

Syn.: censorship, injunction, limitation, prohibition

Embattled (adj) in a condition of defence

The embattled soldiers were all determined to fight the opposite side.

Syn.: active, aggressive, bellicose, combating

Embryonic (adj) in a developing state

The embryonic democracy in Afghanistan will need a certain amount of hand-holding for some time.

Syn.: blossoming, burgeoning, fledgling, germinating

Emeritus (adj) having retired but keeping title as an honour

Professor Luckett is a professor emeritus in the Iowa State University.

Syn.: retired

Encephalic (adj) of the brain

All this work is encephalic and requires technical skill with practical wit.

Engaging (adj) to be pleasant and interesting

Kate was engaging company and we did not feel bored for even an instant.

Syn.: alluring, appealing, bewitching, captivating

Enormity (n) very wicked act, gravity of act

The enormity of the crime and the callousness displayed by the officials sent shockwaves through the campus.

Syn.: abomination, atrociousness, depravity, flagrancy

Enterprising (adj) resourceful

Though his enterprising nature made him popular among the students, it did not impress the teachers.

Syn.: active, adventurous, aggressive, ambitious

Enthrall (v) hold spellbound

His performance enthralled all those who were present.

Syn.: enchant, capture, ravish, delight

Entice (v) lure

The official found the deal too enticing to be able to refuse.

Syn.: attract, beguile, entrap, inveigle

Entomology (n) study of insects

Kent found entomology the most annoying part of his biology course

Epoch (n) A particular period of history

Tolkien talks of an epoch in his book.

Syn.: era, interim, lifetime, span

Ethereal (adj) light

Visitors were impressed by her ethereal beauty.

Syn.: aerial, celestial, exquisite, gossamer

Ethnology (n) study of humankind

She was an intern who was doing research on ethnology.

Syn.: civilization, customs, folklore, mores

Etiology (n) study of the causes of diseases

Tracing the etiology helps a doctor cure the disease permanently.

Syn.: biology, cytology, dissection, genetics

Etymology (n) study of the origin and development of words

If you learn a word with the help of its etymology, you would never forget the meaning of the word.

Syn.: ancestry, basis, descent, genealogy

Eugenics (n) the movement devoted to improving the human species by controlling heredity

Consanguinity in marriage is undesirable from the viewpoint of eugenics.

Syn.: ancestry, constitution, genesiology, genetics

Eulogise (v) to praise highly

The pop artist eulogized Bette Davis in his song.

Syn.: acclaim, celebrate, exalt, panegyrise

Euphoria (n) to be elated

The euphoria of the students after the exams were over was palpable.

Syn.: ecstasy, exhilaration, frenzy, intoxication

Euthanasia (n) mercy killing

Euthanasia has been made legal in the Netherlands.

Syn.: annihilation, bereavement, demise, dissolution

Evanescent (adj) tending to fade from sight

All religions emphasize the evanescent nature of human existence.

Syn.: fleeting, momentary, transient, transitory

Eviscerate (v) to remove the internal organs of a body

The eviscerated animal was stuffed and kept for sale.

Syn.: decimate, despoil, dilapidate, disembowel

Evocative (adj) to produce pleasant memories and emotions

No one can deny the overpoweringly evocative power of music on a rainy day.

Syn.: implicative, mnemonic, nostalgic, redolent

Exacerbate (v) to aggravate (pain, annoyance, etc.)

The pain reliever exacerbated the pain instead of acting as a reliever.

Syn.: annoy, enrage, exasperate, intensify

Exacting (adj) demanding

The work was exceptionally exacting so I requested for a day's time to think it over.

Syn.: burdensome, exigent, finicky, imperious

Exalted (adj) celebrating

The Green House students felt exalted when they topped at the sports meet.

Syn.: august, dignified, elevated, eminent

Exhume (v) dig out of the ground

The dead body was exhumed out of the ground so that an autopsy could be performed.

Syn.: disembalm, disentomb, nearth

Explicate (v) to explain in detail

The research assistants did not know how to proceed because the Manager had not explicated the goals of the experiment.

Syn.: amplify, construe, elucidate, illustrate

Expound (v) to clarify something in painstaking detail

Father then sat down and expounded his views on the virtues of hard work and punctuality.

Syn.: comment, construe, delineate, describe

Extempore (adj) off-hand, with little preparation

His extempore speech received a standing ovation.

Syn.: improvised, impromptu, spontaneous, unprepared

Extol (v) laud

The Ramayana extols the virtues of Lord Rama.

Syn.: acclaim, applaud, eulogize, exalt

Extradition (n) surrender of a prisoner by one state to another

The extradition of the accused was strongly opposed by his defence lawyer.

Syn.: displacement, exile, expatriation, expulsion

Exult (v) to celebrate a victory

The twins exulted at their success in the ice-skating competition.

Syn.: delighted, cheer, jubilate, rejoice

Fabricate (v) to invent a story and cheat someone

The attorney claimed that he could prove that all the charges against his client had been fabricated.

Syn.: brainstorm, compose, concoct, devise

Facile (adj) not hard to do, effortless

Since she was a facile speaker, she made an effective politician.

Syn.: accomplished, adept, adroit, dexterous

Fanaticism (n) excessive zeal

The fanaticism with which he went on the war front proved that he was dedicated to the cause.

Syn.: Extremism, fundamentalism, bigotry, dogmatism

Fastidious (adj) not easy to please

Her fastidious approach to details makes her a popular fashion designer.

Syn.: scrupulous, meticulous, assiduous, overcritical

Fatalistic (adj) to feel that a situation cannot be changed and accept it without making any effort to control destiny

There was a point of time when she became fatalistic, but a few kind words from well-wishers put her back on her feet.

Syn.: resigned, pessimistic

Felicity (n) happiness, bliss

The felicity of the occasion was contagious.

Syn.: joy, rapture, euphoria, cheer

Ferret (v) to search and drive out

They were ferreted out of that cache.

Syn.: rummage, forage, ransack, explore

Fervent (adj) ardent, hot

She wished fervently that he would be beside her at this very moment.

Syn.: impassioned, vehement, profound, fanatical

Fetter (v) to confine, to put in chains

Being fettered does not mean that we would forget the cause we are fighting for.

Syn.: shackle, manacle, handcuff, tether

Fidelity (n) loyalty

The dog is one animal that is known for its fidelity.

Syn.: faithfulness, devotion

Fiend (n) evil, inhuman

Shylock, theShakespearean money lender, was a fiend.

Syn.: demon, incubus

Filch (v) to steal

Ram needs to really grow out of his compulsive habit of filching.

Syn.: pilfer, purloin, embezzle

Finesse (n) skill, expertise

The hostess handled the awkward scene with finesse and won the admiration of the gathering.

Syn.: flair, knack, panache, adroitness

Flaccid (adj) flabby

Lack of regular physical activity had left him with flaccid muscles.

Syn.: sagging, drooping, infirm, slack

Flagrant (adj) outrageous, scandalous

There was a flagrant violation of rules in the examination hall.

Syn.: blatant, conspicuous

Flatulent (adj) pompous, exaggerated

The flatulent life style of the French royalty acted as a catalyst for the revolution.

Syn.: grandiose, bombastic

Fledgling (adj) inexperienced

The fledgling young man did not realise the internal politics in the institution and kept fighting for his cause.

Syn.: developing, embryonic, incipient, dawning

Flotilla (n) a small fleet of boats or small ships

Fishermen in coastal areas go out in flotillas.

Flotsam (n) the wreckage of a ship or its cargo found floating on the seas

Salvaging flotsam provides a decent living to many people.

Fluster (v) to confuse, unsettle, unnerve

He gets flustered the moment there is any problem that he has to deal with on his own.

Syn.: agitate, ruffle, perturb, nonplus

Forbearance (n) patience

A lot of forbearance is expected of the girls in the Indian society.

Syn.: tolerance, endurance, fortitude, stoicism

Forlorn (adj) sad and lonely

She was forlorn and lovesick and could not concentrate on her sport.

Syn.: despondent, morose, doleful, despairing

Formidable (adj) threatening

The problem seemed formidable for anyone to take lightly.

Syn.: intimidating, redoubtable, chilling, petrifying

Fortitude (n) brave and calm in trying circumstances

She accepted the news of her husband's incarceration with fortitude.

Syn.: courage, resilience, mettle, intrepidity

Fracas (n) a noisy fight, quarrel

In the fracas at the bus stop, many people were killed and several were injured.

Syn.: brawl, tussle, melee, brouhaha

Fraternal (adj) brotherly

In a splendid display of fraternity, member of all communities came together for the cause.

Fulsome (adj) exaggerated or excessive

The fulsome expressions of gratitude that she showered on him made everyone feel slightly sick.

Syn.: profuse, liberal, overdone

Gadfly (n) annoying person

He is only a gadfly, paying too much attention to his like would be a waste of our precious energy.

Syn.: nuisance, pest

Gaffe (n) a social or diplomatic blunder

The Senator committed a gaffe when he turned down the dinner invitation.

Syn.: mistake, faux pas

Gainsay (v) to declare to be untrue or invalid

There is no gainsaying the fact that people rely on you to sort out their personal problems.

Syn.: oppose, contradict, refute, negate

Galleon (n) large sailing ship

A Spanish galleon rescued the survivors of the shipwreck.

Gambit (n)

(i) a chess opening in which a player risks one or more pawns or a minor piece to gain an advantage in position

(ii) a remark intended to start a conversation or make a telling point

(iii) a calculated move an action intended to gain an advantage

Rommel's gambit paid off consistently in the African desert.

Syn.: plan, plot, maneuver

Gamut (n)

(i) the whole range of recognised musical notes

(ii) the entire range or extent

Robert Frost depicts the gamut of human emotions in his poem.

Syn.: area, diapason, scale, spectrum

Garish (adj) offensively or distressingly bright, or tastelessly showy

Clowns in the circus normally wear garish outfits.

Syn.: flashy, gaudy, glaring, tawdry

Garrulous (adj) very talkative, annoyingly or pointlessly wordy

The lady I met at the restaurant was garrulous, but I enjoyed listening to her various anecdotes.

Syn.: verbose, babbling, loquacious

Gastronomy (n) art and science of preparing and serving good food, culinary customs or style

You cook so well, you should have been a student of gastronomy, instead of astronomy!

Gaunt (adj) thin, bony, angular, barren

His once-round face looked surprisingly gaunt after he lost weight.

Syn.: skinny, lean, haggard, emaciated

Generality (n)

(i) general or vague statement

We must do away with all generalities in this equation and should stick to only known results.

Syn.: generalization, abstraction

(ii) greatest part of something or everybody

The generality of the population was against the war.

Syn.: everyone, people, masses, populace

Genesis (n) origin

The genesis of most poets' poems lies in their own emotions.

Syn.: birth, beginning, commencement, inception

Genial (adj) to be warm and friendly, conducive to life or comfort

His genial nature made him popular not only in his own class but also across all other sections.

Syn.: affable, amicable, complaisant

Genteel (adj) elegant or graceful in manner, shape or appearance, free from vulgarity or rudeness

His genteel nature made us think that he must be hailing from an aristocratic family.

Syn.: refined, proper, courteous

Gentry (n) people of a specified class, usually the upper class

At one time, only the most celebrated gentry was admitted into the club.

Syn.: elite, aristocracy, upper crust

Gerontocracy (n) government based on rule by old people

Gulliver visited a gerontocracy in which the young people acted as servants to their elders, all the while dreaming of the day they would be old enough to have servants of their own.

Gestation (n)

(i) the period of development in the uterus from conception until birth, pregnancy

(ii) in a developing state

The plan is in gestation now and shall be worked on a trial basis after a few months.

Syn.: evolution, maturation

Glacial (adj)

(i) frozen, resembling ice, like a glacier

(ii) a person who is cold, unfriendly, does not show his/her feelings

I tried my luck, but the glacial beauty refused to talk to me.

Syn.: arctic, frigid, aloof, unapproachable

Glut (n) overabundance, to fill especially with food to satiety

(v) to flood (the market) with goods so that supply exceeds demand

There is such a glut of musicians at the moment that I'm finding it extremely difficult to find work.

Syn.: excess, surplus, superfluity

Glutinous (adj) having the quality of glue

Molten lava has a glutinous texture.

Syn.: sticky, gooey, adhering, viscous,gelatinous

Gory (adj) covered or stained with blood, full of or characterized by bloodshed and violence

Please spare me the gory details.

Syn.: violent, gruesome, brutal, bloody

Gregarious (adj) fond of the company of others

Gregarious people are better at work situations that involve group activity.

Syn.: friendly, affable, sociable, convivial

Griping (v)

(i) to afflict pain or to irritate

(ii) to cause pinching and spasmodic pain in the bowels

(iii) to keep on complaining and grumbling

He kept on griping during the dinner and we sincerely regretted inviting him over.

Syn.: grouch, grouse, grumble, mutter

Grotesque (n) distorted in appearance, shape, extremely ugly

The grotesque make-up of the actress was quite shocking.

Syn.: abnormal, deformed, onstrous

Haematology (n) the study of diseases of the blood and blood-forming tissues

He was awarded a doctorate degree for his study of haematology.

Haggard (adj) having a wild, wasted, worn look

She was haggard from loss of sleep.

Syn.: fatigued, exhausted

Haggle (v) argue about the prices

Mrs. Jones would never buy anything without haggling even if the product was nominally priced.

Syn.: bargain, barter, negotiate

Hallucination (n) the apparent perception of sights, sounds, or objects that is not actually present

Drug addicts experience hallucinations.

Syn.: illusion, delusion, mirage

Hankering (v) to wish or yearn for something persistently

She still had a hankering to renew her relationship with the senior who had passed out of high school.

Syn.: desire, craving, longing

Harrowing (adj) a terrible experience

We had a harrowing time in the claustrophobic room and wished that the session would end as soon as possible.

Syn.: distressing, traumatic, vexing, tormenting

Haughtiness (n) arrogance and pride

There was a certain haughtiness in her manner that raised the hackles of her classmates.

Syn.: conceit, vanity, smugness, snobbery

Heckle (v) to harass (a speaker) with questions or taunts

The speaker could not proceed with his lecture as he was heckled by the audience.

Syn.: jeer, interrupt, butt in, boo

Heinous (adj) outrageously evil

Murder for revenge is a heinous crime.

Syn.: abhorrent, abominable, deplorable

Hermaphrodite (n) a person, animal or plant with sexual organs of both the male and female

A hermaphrodite creature is very rare.

Hermitage (n) living space or condition of a hermit, secluded place of living

Israel was created as a hermitage for the Jews who had survived in the holocaust.

Syn.: sanctuary, retreat

Herpetologist (n) one who studies reptiles

The famous herpetologist spent a number of years in the Amazon forests in search of the elusive anaconda.

Hireling (n) mercenary

The man who made an attempt was nothing more than a hireling.

Hirsute (adj) hairy

My hirsute dog has begun shedding his hair again.

Syn.: unshaven, bearded, pileous

Homily (n) a sermon or solemn talk

All elders take great delight in passing on homilies to their children.

Syn.: discourse

Homonym (n) a word with the same pronunciation and spelling as another but a different meaning, origin

Purchase which means `to buy' or `grip' is a homonym.

Horology (n) the science of measuring time or making time-pieces.

Horology is a science that needs great precision.

Horrendous (adj) very shocking

His friends cheated him of everything and then discarded him in a most horrendous way.

Syn.: horrible, offensive, hideous, heinous, morbid

Humus (n) rich soil

The humus plays a major role in sustaining the plant.

Husbandry (n) farming

Animal husbandry is popular all over the world.

Syn.: cultivation, agronomy

Hypochondria (n) abnormal anxiety, morbid state of depression for which there is no real cause

I think that she should take medical advice for her hypochondria

Iconic (adj) a symbol that is supposed to represent something great

The astounding success of the movie gave Daniel Radcliffe an iconic status.

Idiom (n) special usage in a language

Common idioms, such as `it is raining cats and dogs' often have fascinating origins.

Idyllic (adj) Simple and carefree

We went for an idyllic vacation in a seashore cottage.

Syn.: pleasant, peaceful, halcyon, bucolic, pastoral, rustic

Ignoble (adj) unworthy, not noble

A true knight, Sir Gallahad never stooped to perform ignoble deeds.

Syn.: contemptible, degraded, abject, sordid

Imbibe (v) to drink, to absorb, to receive into the mind

Children should imbibe ethical principles.

Syn.: absorb, assimilate, partake

Immaculate (adj) very neat & clean

He praised the immaculate boarding room and exclaimed that it looked almost illusory.

Syn.: flawless, spruce, unsoiled, unsullied, chaste, unblemished

Immolate (v) to offer as a sacrifice by killing

The Aztecs immolated human victims.

Immure (v) to imprison, lock up

The king ordered him to be immured for his insolence.

Syn.: confine, incarcerate, jail, restrain, intern

Impale (v) pierce

The soldier's shield proved useless and the enemy's sword impaled him, killing him instantly.

Syn.: lance, transfix

Impalpable (adj) not perceptible to the touch, intangible

There was an almost impalpable tremor in her legs as she walked onto the stage to collect her award.

Syn.: intangible, incorporeal, unapparent

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Impertinent (adj) rude

No teacher can tolerate impertinent behaviour.

Syn.: impolite, discourteous, uncivil, insolent

Impiety (n) irreverence, an impious act

In the medieval times, writers were often accused of impiety for writing against the established religious norms, and punished.

Syn.: disrespect, unrighteousness

Impotent (adj) ineffective, powerless

The magician claims that his secret potion prevents his powers from becoming impotent.

Syn.: fruitless, futile

Imprimatur (n) sanction or approval for something to be printed

One needs the imprimatur of the church before a new version of the Bible may be printed.

Syn.: endorsement, concurrence, consent

Impropriety (n) inappropriate and improper, wrongdoing

The impropriety of their son's remarks made the parents blush.

Syn.: misconduct, unscrupulousness, indecorousness

Improvident (adj) thriftless and rash

His improvident actions have rendered his son heavily in debt which resulted in disaster.

Syn.: wasteful, prodigal, profligate, extravagant

Inane (adj) very silly

"I wanted to snap at him when he started making those inane remarks."

Syn.: foolish, stupid, fatuous, ludicrous, moronic

Incarnate (adj) possessing bodily form, esp. the human form, personified or typified

You have the most wicked temperament, you must be the devil incarnate!

Syn.: corporeal, embodied

Incendiary (n) An arsonist

The investigative team is trying to ascertain whether the fire was the act of an incendiary or not.

Syn.: pyromaniac

Inclement (adj) severe, stormy

This inclement weather was worrying the captain of the ship.

Syn.: extreme, harsh, adverse

Incommodious (adj) not spacious

The room is extremely incommodious, there's hardly any space for a second person.

Inconsequential (adj) trivial, insignificant

I just sat there and the seemingly inconsequential events of the past year passed swiftly in front of my eyes, now I could see a coherent pattern emerge.

Syn.: trifling, petty, insubstantial, paltry, nugatory

Incontinent (adj) lacking self-restraint, uncontrolled

His behaviour is often as incontinent as it is careless.

Syn.: unbridled, unfettered, untrammeled, uncurbed

Incorporeal (adj) without material body or form

It is commonly believed that upon death, the incorporeal soul leaves the corporeal body.

Syn.: impalpable, disembodied, ethereal, wraithlike

Incorrigible (adj) beyond correction

He is incorrigible, not even the sternest punishment can make him mend his naughty ways.

Syn.: incurable, irredeemable, intractable, unreformable

Incredulous (adj) disbelieving

Dorothy shot an incredulous look at the scarecrow-it was actually speaking!

Syn.: dubious, suspicious, skeptical, cynical

Incumbent (adj)

(i) office holder

(ii) binding, obligatory

He is the present incumbent for this post, but will soon hand over his charge to someone younger.

Syn.: reigning; mandatory, essential

Indefatigable (adj) someone who never gets tired of doing something

The young boy worked indefatigably to ensure that the Christmas feast was a great success.

Syn.: energetic, unflagging, unrelenting, tenacious

Indemnity (n) Security against loss, compensation for loss

The government was asked by the court to pay a hefty indemnity to the family of the dead passenger.

Syn.: insurance, exemption, exoneration.

Indenture (n) contract, formal agreement

The workers were held by their employers by spurious indentures.

Syn.: covenant, pledge, undertaking

Indigenous (adj) native, innate

The Ainu are indigenous to the northernmost islands of Japan.

Syn.: aboriginal, primeval, primordial, original

Indolent (adj) lazy

I was feeling indolent and loath to leave the comfort of my bed that Sunday morning.

Syn.: slothful, lackadaisical, lethargic, languid, torpid

Indubitably (adj) beyond a doubt

You are indubitably the lost friend of my childhood.

Syn.: undoubtedly, unarguably, incontestably, undeniably

Indulgent (adj) lenient, permissive

His parents were too indulgent with him, with the result that he is now a thoroughly spoilt boy.

Syn.: liberal, tolerant, element, compliant

Ineffable (adj) inexpressible, indescribable

We couldn't tell whether he was pleased with the announcement or not, because he had a most ineffable expression on his face.

Inexorable (adj) relentless, not yielding to entreaty

The animal right activists are keeping an inexorable vigil to save the last few cheetahs on earth.

Syn.: inescapable, intransigent, determined

Infallible (adj) unerring

Caesar's biggest mistake was in assuming himself to be infallible.

Syn.: faultless, impeccable, accurate.

Infidel (n) atheist

The orthodox religious factions tend to be very intolerant of infidels.

Syn.: non-believer, heretic, agnostic, nihilist, apostate

Infirmity (n) physical weakness or debility

Infirmity didn't prevent him from taking part in the marathon.

Syn.: frailty, feebleness, fragility

Ingenious (adj) bright, skillful & clever

Think of some ingenious idea to get us out of this spot.

Syn.: creative, insightful, pioneering

Ingenuous (adj) simple and trusting

It was hard for them to digest that such an ingenuous boy could exist in this world of street-smart children.

Syn.: naïve, innocent, unwary

Ingratiate (v) Gain favour with somebody by deliberate efforts

The visitor tried to ingratiate himself to the hosts.

Syn.: fawn to, cringe to, flatter

Insalubrious (adj) unwholesome, not healthful

The mosquito-ridden swamp was an insalubrious place.

Syn.: unsavoury, sordid, dingy, wretched

Inscrutable (adj) incomprehensible

The expression on his face was too inscrutable for the others to make out as to what he was thinking.

Syn.: mysterious, cryptic, enigmatic, deadpan

Insinuate (v) imply, insert

She seemed to insinuate that he had something to do with the mystery.

Syn.: indicate, allude to, suggest, convey

Insipid (adj) of dull taste

The speech was more insipid than inspiring and we couldn't wait for him to wind up.

Syn.: savourless, unappetizing, unpalatable

Insolent (adj) insulting, arrogant

His insolent manner of speaking angered his father.

Syn.: ill-mannered, impudent, impertinent, impolite

Insolvent (adj) bankrupt

The company is trying to disguise the fact that it is insolvent.

Syn.: liquidated, impoverished, broke, defaulting

Insular (adj) to have an old-fashioned, provincial image

The insular and stiff locale could not tolerate the image of a young woman in skimpy attire.

Syn.: conventional, parochial, narrow- inded, sectarian

Insurrection (n) uprising

There was an insurrection against the feudal system in the 17th century.

Syn.: rebellion, muting, insurgence, sedition

Inter (v) to bury

For many years, he was interred in a small cell which had only one small shaft to let in fresh air.

Syn.: entomb, inurn, consign

Interdict (v) to forbid

The jury is interdicted from conversing with the general public.

Syn.: prohibit, ban, proscribe, embargo

Interloper (n) intruder

They managed to catch the interloper before he could escape.

Syn.: trespasser, invader, infiltrator

Intractable (adj) cannot be controlled

The teacher called in Benjy's parents to determine the cause of his intractable nature.

Syn.: unmanageable, ungovernable

Intransigent (adj) stubbornly adamant, uncompromising

The government was restraining itself from using force on the intransigent rebels. Syn.: uncompromising, inflexible, obdurate, rigid, inveterate

Intrepid (adj) brave, fearless

The intrepid boy was praised at the school assembly.

Syn.: dauntless, heroic, indomitable, valorous

Inundate (v) to cover with water, flood

The land adjoining the river was inundatedwith flood water.

Syn.: deluge, swamp, engulf, immerse

Inure (v) to harden

Many years in the outback have inured him to extreme weather conditions.

Syn.: toughen, accustom, habituate, acclimatize

Invective (n) abusive language

We should refrain from using invectives in our speeches.

Syn.: insults, expletives, vituperative

Inveigh (v) to denounce, complain bitterly

He inveighed against the philosophy of the previous speaker.

Syn.: protest, censure, condemn, decry

Inveterate (adj) firmly established, habituated

The mother is inveterate as the head of the family in a traditional tribe.

Syn.: entrenched, deep- ooted

Invidious (adj) showing envy and resentment, hateful

I couldn't help being invidious of the wealth he had succeeded in amassing during this time period.

Syn.: Obnoxious, jealous, detestable

Irascible (adj) easily angered, short-tempered

The women of the house tried to stay out of the way of the irascible grandfather.

Syn.: irritable, touchy, waspish, querulous

Iridescent (adj) shimmering, brilliant

The iridescent stones gave the false impression of being embedded with precious stones.

Syn.: glittering, sparkling, scintillating, opalescent

Irrefragable (adj) irrefutable, indisputable

It's an irrefragable fact that all ancient civilizations deified the natural forces like the sun, wind and rain.

Syn.: incontrovertible, undeniable, absolute

Itinerant (adj) one who travels from place to place

He led the life of an itinerant writer moving from one place to another in his caravan.

Syn.: nomadic, migrating, peripatetic, vagabond

Itinerary (n) schedule, planned route

We decided not to follow the usual tourist's itinerary while travelling through Mexico and decided to explore the offbeat areas instead.

Syn.: time-table, programme

Jaded (adj) tired, satiated

He wished that he could get rid of his jaded image and be happy, free and cheerful again.

Syn.: weary, exhausted, fatigued, enervated

Jaunt (n) a short trip

Mr. Jonathan has been working so hard that a jaunt at this time seems almost imperative for him.

Syn.: outing, excursion, expedition

Jaunty *(adj)*to be lively and cheerful

I was pleased to see that my traveling companion was a jaunty schoolboy.

Syn.: merry, jolly, vivacious, buoyant, ebullient

Jejune (adj) dull

The jejune evening dragged on and we wished that we could leave the gathering and go home at the earliest.

Syn.: artless, simple, raise, tedious, unimaginative

Jingoism (n) chauvinistic advocacy of an aggressive, warlike foreign policy

The jingoism of the Nazis proved to be the undoing of Germany.

Syn.: militarism, belligerence, extreme patriotism

Jocund *(adj)* pleasant, cheerful

The little girl's jocund manners endeared her to everyone.

Syn.: jolly, exuberant, ebullient, gleeful

Judicious (adj) to show good judgment

The committee warned that we must make judicious use of the existing sources of energy.

Syn.: sensible, prudent, astute, sagacious, insightful

Junta (n) a group military men in power after a coup d'etat

Several South American countries are ruled by Junta.

Syn.: faction, cable, clique

Juvenile (adj) young, immature

Peter's juvenile behaviour could be attributed to his upbringing.

Syn.: childish, infantile, callow, naïve

Junket (n) an excursion, especially one by an official at public expense

There was press junket made in connection with the opening of an important new motion picture.

Kitsch (n) pretentious and showy

The kitsch look of the eighties pop culture has given way to more simple and sober pop videos.

Kleptomania (n) an abnormal, persistent impulse to steal

Her kleptomania was source of embarrassment to her parents.

Knavery (n) rascality

The knavery when discovered made him lose all his credibility as a good human being.

Syn.: unscrupulousness, depravity, corruption, deceit

Knoll (n) a little rounded hill, a hillock

The little knoll over there is a place of tourist's attraction.

Syn.: mound, hump

Knotty (adj) intricate, difficult, tangled

The plot was too knotty to unravel right then.

Syn.: complex, convoluted, perplexing, baffling

Labyrinth (n) a complicated series of passages

I got lost again in the labyrinth of the corridors and could not find my way back to the classroom.

Syn.: maze, network, web

Lacerate (v) to tear

The sword lacerated his skin at a number of places.

Syn.: slash, incise, cleave

Lachrymose (adj) given to weeping or being tearful

My mother's lachrymose temperament can be difficult to handle at times.

Syn.: sobbing, emotional, mournful, woeful, morose

Lackadaisical (adj) lazy and unenthusiastic

She was not pleased at the lackadaisical attitude of the students and made up her mind to have a picnic at the earliest possible date.

Syn.: uninterested, insouciant, apathetic, languid

Lackey (n) servant

The lackey informed the master that somebody had called upon the latter.

Syn.: valet, steward, vassal, factotum

Laconic (adj) brief, terse

He gave a very laconic and unsatisfactory reply to her question.

Syn.: concise, succinct, pithy

Lampoon (v) to criticize a person by using humour, satirize

He lampooned the pretentious patrons of Barista and made everyone laugh.

Syn.: ridicule, caricature, parody

Languor (n) weariness

We were overcome with languor when we came back to the huts after the long trek.

Syn.: fatigue, sluggishness, lassitude

Languid (adj) lethargic

His languid disposition gives the impression that he hasn't slept properly through the night.

Syn.: unenergetic, listless, phlegmatic, sluggish, slothful

Larceny (n) robbery

Gentleman Dick was charged with many cases of larceny on the highway.

Syn.: pilfering, burglary, purloining, misappropriation

Lascivious (adj) to be lusty for carnal desires

She changed her seat to avoid listening to the lascivious conversation of the perverted group.

Syn.: lecherous, licentious, libidinous, wanton, debauched

Lassitude (n) to feel lazy and inactive

We knew that we would have to spring back to our feet after the extended lassitude of Christmas time.

Syn.: listlessness, weariness, languor, exhaustion, torpor

Leaven (n) raise dough

The mixture was left overnight to leaven before being baked in the oven.

Syn.: ferment

Lectern (n) podium

The lecturer ascended the lectern amidst clapping from the audience.

Legerdemain (n) deceitful cleverness

His financial legerdemain parted many a men from their money.

Syn.: trickery, sleight of hand, dexterity

Lewd (adj) obscene

He was severely reprimanded, fined and jailed for making lewd gestures at the lady.

Syn.: lecherous, licentious, lascivious, immoral

Libidinous (adj) Exhibiting lustful desires

The girls are everyday harassed by men making libidinous advances.

Syn.: lustful, lascivious, lewd, carnal

Licentious (adj) to be lusty and immoral

The female staff decided to complain about the licentious behavior of their supervisor.

Syn.: debouched, salacious, wanton, decadent

Ligneous (adj) having the texture/ ppearance of wood

The ligneous rocks form over a long period of time from the remains of decayed vegetation.

Limpid (adj) clear

Her eyes were limpid enough for one to be able to see one's reflection in them.

Syn.: transparent, glassy, pellucid, unclouded

Lineage (n) ancestry

The members of Hapsburg dynasty were proud of their royal lineage.

Syn.: parentage, family, heritage, genealogy, dynasty

Lineaments (n) distinctive features, form

From the top of the mountain, the lineament of the surrounding peaks and the valleys, is a beautiful one.

Syn.: traits, hallmarks, contours, outline, visage

Livid (adj) to be very angry

I was livid with rage when he forgot to return my books for the second time.

Syn.: furious, infuriated, seething, incensed

Loath (adj) unwilling or reluctant

I am loathe to disturb you while you're busy with your work.

Syn.: detest, abhor, despise, abominate

Lucrative (adj) profitable

She dropped out of college and took up a lucrative modeling career.

Syn.: remunerative, rewarding, fruitful

Ludicrous (adj) ridiculous

They were making a ludicrously loud noise over such a trivial issue.

Syn.: absurd, preposterous

Luscious (adj) Sweet and pleasant to taste or smell

The cherries in the farms are simply luscious this year.

Syn.: delectable, succulent, juicy, palatable

Luxuriant (adj) flourishing

The luxuriant overgrowth did well to conceal the hidden treasure.

Syn.: abundant, prolific, fecund, rampant

Magnanimity (n) generosity

She accepted the criticism with magnanimity.

Syn.: charitableness, benevolence, munificence, philanthropy

Magniloquent (adj) boastful or bombastic

The magniloquent speaker sounded too boring.

Syn.: pompous, pretentious, grandiloquent

Mainstay (n) A chief support

Education is the mainstay of my existence in this city, the rest will naturally follow.

Syn.: central, pillar, backbone, anchor

Maladroit (adj) awkward, clumsy, bungling

Some of his first interviews with the press were rather maladroit.

Syn.: inept, gawky, graceless

Malevolent (adj) wishing evil or harm to others, malicious

Her stare was malevolent, her mouth a thin line, her eyes bright and glittering.

Syn.: spiteful, rancorous, pernicious, malignant

Malicious (adj) having, showing, or caused by malice, spiteful

"These are not necessarily hateful, malicious people," said Ron

Syn.: malevolent, vindictive, rancorous, pernicious

Malign (v) to defame, slander, traduce

He maligns the innocent princess as a siren who has drawn him to his ruin.

Syn.: libel, vilify, calumniate

Malignant (adj) harmful

In cancer, malignant cells must be quickly spotted and destroyed.

Syn.: internecine, mortal, pestilential

Malodorous (adj) having a bad odor, stinking

There lie tons of malodorous garbage bags in that street.

Syn.: fetid, reeking, putrid, noxious

Marauder (n) bandit

You are nothing but a common marauder, eager to loot all the wealth that you can.

Syn.: raider, plunderer, pillager, buccaneer

Masticate (v) to chew

Her mouth was working, as if she was masticating some tasty tidbit.

Syn.: munch, ruminate

Mawkish (adj) sentimental, maudlin

A sordid, sentimental plot unwinds, with an inevitable mawkish ending.

Syn.: cloying, nauseating, lachrymose

Maxim (n) well-known phrase

I believe in the maxim `a stitch in time saves mine'.

Syn.: aphorism, adage, axiom, precept, truism

Meander (v) winding course, to move aimlessly

We spent the afternoon meandering around the streets of the old town.

Syn.: recoil, drift, twine

Mellifluous (adj) sweet and smooth, honeyed

I grew up around people who had wonderful, mellifluous voices.

Syn.: resonant, mellow euphonious, harmonious

Mercenary (adj) working for money, greedy

They suggest that my motives for proposing reform are self-serving and mercenary.

Syn.: hireling

Mercurial (adj) quick-witted, volatile, changeable, fickle

With their mercurial allegiance to politicians and parties, they represent a crucial swing vote that can decide the elections.

Syn.: capricious, excitable, temperamental

Meteoric (adj) brilliant, flashing

This magnificent show charts his meteoric rise from `small town' country singer to top international Rock idol.

Meticulous (adj) extremely careful, scrupulous, finicky

The painting had been executed with meticulous attention to detail.

Syn.: fastidious, diligent, punctilious

Milieu (n) environment

They stayed, safe and happy, within their own social milieu.

Syn.: backdrop, habitat

Minion (n) servile follower

She delegated the job to one of her minions.

Syn.: flunkey, lackey, vassal, stooge

Misappropriate (v) to swindle others' money

The treasurer stood accused of misappropriating funds from the Club's treasury.

Syn.: embezzle, expropriate, pilfer

Misdemeanour (n) minor offense

The father was particular not to let go off any misdemeanour lest it grows to be a habitual action

Syn.: misconduct, peccadillo

Misgiving (n) doubt, apprehension, qualm

She had some misgivings about what she was about to do.

Syn.: reservation, diffidence, skepticism

Misnomer (n) error in naming

Herbal `tea' is something of a misnomer because these drinks contain no tea at all.

Misogamy (n) hatred of marriage

Failed marriages are creating misogamy in today's youth.

Misogynist (n) one who hates woman

He is still, in the eyes of some, an irredeemable misogynist.

Syn.: chauvinist, sexist

Mitigate (v) to lessen, less severe

Meditation mitigates the pain of one's loss to and teaches you to derive pleasure from being alive.

Syn.: alleviate, lessen, moderate, attenuate, palliate, assuage

Mollify (v) to soothe, pacify, appease

The investigation was undertaken primarily to mollify pressure groups.

Syn.: placate, conciliate, propitiate

Momentous (adj) of great moment, very important

The past three years have been among the most momentous in world history.

Syn.: significant, apocalyptic

Monotheism (n) belief in one god

Abrahim was the first to proclaim his belief in monotheism.

Moor (n) Broad area of open land

Ireland and Scotland are famous for their lonely but lovely moors.

Syn.: bog, marsh, swamp

Moratorium (n) authorized delay of some activity

The House voted to impose a one-year moratorium on nuclear testing.

Syn.: embargo, prohibition, hiatus, adjournment

Morbid (adj) unhealthy, diseased

Some people have a morbid fascination with crime.

Syn.: macabre, gruesome, ghoulish

Mores (n) customs and conventional behavior

The mores of Latin America are like that of Europe, more or less.

Syn.: conventions, traditions

Motif (n) main idea, theme

The motif of these volumes is that solitude is the richness of the soul, loneliness is its poverty.

Syn.: motive, topic, leitmotif

Motley (adj) multifarious, mixed

This is a motley collection of vans, old buses, cattle-trucks, and even a fire engine.

Syn.: disparate, assorted, heterogeneous, varied

Muddle (v) to mix up, jumble, bungle

The boundaries between history and storytelling are always being blurred and muddled.

Syn.: confuse, perplex, mess-up

Mundane (adj) banal

She was tired of her mundane lifestyle and decided to join an adventure club.

Syn.: dull, humdrum, tedious, prosaic

Munificent (adj) very generous, lavish

He enjoys being munificent on a princely scale.

Syn.: bountiful, magnanimous, philanthropic

Mutinous (adj) rebellious

The mutinous army refused to withdraw even though the Commander asked it to do so.

Syn.: insubordinate, insurgent, seditious, subversive

Nefarious (adj) very wicked, villainous, iniquitous

Why make a whole village prisoner if it was not to some nefarious purpose?

Syn.: heinous, appalling, atrocious

Nemesis (n) an event that harms a person

The heavy swing of votes in the widow's favour turned out to be the President's nemesis.

Syn.: ruination, destruction, Waterloo

Neophyte (n) beginner, novice

All other players are neophytes in comparison to Sachin Tendulkar.

Syn.: fledgling, apprentice

Nexus (n) a connection

The judiciary ordered a probe into the alleged nexus between the movie industry and the underworld dons.

Niggardly (adj) mean, stingy

We are finding it hard to make the two ends meet on the niggardly pittance we are earning.

Syn.: parsimonious, miserly

Nihilism (n) denial of traditional values

Nihilism was the center-point of all Nazi policies towards the Jews.

Syn.: cynicism, pessimism, repudiation

Nonchalant (adj) to appear calm and unruffled

He appeared nonchalant when his mother handed him the exam timetable, aggravating her fears.

Syn.: unruffled, imperturbable, phlegmatic

Nubile (adj)

(i) marriageable

(ii) sexually attractive

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(i) marriageable

(ii) sexually attractive

Mrs. Bennet, in the book `Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen, was worried about finding suitable husbands for her five nubile daughters.

Syn.: desirable, lush, voluptuous

Obdurate (adj) unmanageable, stubborn

Some members of the committee are likely to prove obdurate on this matter.

Syn.: inflexible, unyielding, obstinate, intransigent

Obeisance (n) An act of bending head or body in homage

When he was young and strong, all paid obeisance to him.

Syn.: homage, deference, reverence, veneration

Oblique (adj) indirect, sloping direction

Mr. Golding delivered an oblique warning, talking of the dangers of a sudden action.

Syn.: aslant, angled, askew, tilled

Obliterate (v) to wipe out, destroy

The building was completely obliterated by the bomb.

Syn.: annihilate, eradicate, expunge, efface

Obnoxious (adj) extremely unpleasant, offensive

The people at my table were so obnoxious that I simply had to change my seat.

Syn.: unsavoury, unpalatable, disagreeable, revolting

Obtuse (adj) slow to understand

The obtuse remark left everyone perplexed!

Syn.: stolid, dull, slow-witted

Occident (n) western part of the world

The Occident is the anti thesis of the Orient.

Occult (adj) related to magic and mystery

The shelves contained Daisy's books, mostly novels with some on occult and mystical subjects.

Syn.: abstruse, arcane, esoteric

Officious (adj) marked by excessive eargeness or advice

People generally don't welcome any officious interference from the police.

Syn.: impertinent

Olfactory (adj) connected with the sense of smell

Some of the olfactory nerves that transmit smell signals pass through the limbic system.

Oligarchy (n) government of few people

Athens was suffering under the rule of an oligarchy that had no concern for the people's welfare.

Ombudsman (n) an official appointed to investigate grievances against public machinery

The government has appointed an ombudsman to look into allegations of nepotism in the recent petrol pump appointments.

Omnipresent (adj) present everywhere simultaneously

God is omnipresent and omniscient.

Syn.: universal, all-pervasive, ubiquitous

Onerous (adj) tiring, demanding

Parents have the onerous task of bringing up children.

Syn.: oppressive, burdensome, formidable

Onus (n) responsibility

The onus is on employers to follow health and safety laws.

Syn.: obligation, liability, ncumbrance

Opaque (adj) obscure, vague, not transparent

You can always use opaque glass if you need to block a street view.

Syn.: cloudy, enigmatic

Opiate (n) medicine to induce sleep or unconsciousness

It was Karl Marx who said, `Religion is the opiate of the masses'.

Syn.: sedative, anodyne, tranquillizer, analgesic

Opportunistic (adj) to exploit a situation for personal gain

The entry of McDonald's into the school segment has been decried as an opportunistic move.

Syn.: unscrupulous, pragmatic, Machiavellian

Opprobrium (n)

(i) severe criticism

Syn.: vilification, vituperation, castigation, slander,

The government did not deserve the opprobrium heaped on it by the national press.

(ii) disgrace

Syn.: disrepute, ignominy, stigma

Opulence (n) wealth, affluence

The opulence and grandeur of the palace was stunning.

Syn.: affluence, prosperity

Ordain (v) to order or command

Fate had ordained that they would never meet again.

Syn.: enjoin, legislate, prescribe

Overbearing (adj) to be domineering and pushy

A few success stories turned her overnight from a popular colleague to an overbearing one.

Syn.: autocratic, tyrannical, despotic, bossy

Pacifist (n) person opposed to violence

She was never a pacifist - "too dynamic and aggressive" - but she always fought for the underdog.

Syn.: peacemaker, pacifier, appeaser

Pallid (adj) faint in color, pale, wan

The mirror showed her a face as pallid as the pies.

Syn.: anaemic, ashen, sallow

Palpable (adj) tangible, obvious

The tension in the room was almost palpable.

Syn.: apparent, blatant, perceptible

Pander (intr, v) to cater to the low desire of others

He said that the government had pandered to the terrorists demands for too long.

Syn.: gratify, indulge

Paramour (n) A lover, especially in an adulterous relationship

When Prince Charles wed his long-time paramour, it generated a considerable fus.

Syn.: mistress

Paraphernalia (n) collection of articles, stuff

Get rid of all cigarettes and ashtrays and other paraphernalia associated with smoking!

Syn.: accoutrements, accessories, odds & ends

Parity (n) equality

The Open University students are at parity with the State University students in terms of academic standards.

Syn.: uniformity, consistency

Parley (v & n) to discuss, discussion

Though the problem appears insurmountable, I am sure that parleys can throw up some idea

Syn.: consult, negotiate, deliberate

Parricide (n) murdering of a close relative especially of a parent

He was jailed for 10 years for parricide.

Syn.: patricide

Parry (v) to ward off, avoid

She parried all questions about their relationship.

Syn.: fend off, stave off, rebuff

Paucity (n) scarcity, dearth

Even the film's impressive finale can't hide the first hour's paucity of imagination.

Syn.: meagreness, paltriness, scantiness

Pauper (n) extremely poor

He did die a pauper and is buried in an unmarked grave.

Syn.: indigent, bankrupt, insolvent, mendicant

Penance (n) atonement

Thousands of pilgrims arrive in Varanasi every year to perform penance for their sins at the banks of River Ganges.

Syn.: expiation, reparation, amends

Perennial (adj) long lasting, permanent

The country is facing a perennial problem of water shortage.

Syn.: enduring, eternal, ceaseless

Peruse (v) to read carefully, scrutinize

A copy of the report is available for you to peruse at leisure.

Syn.: inspect, examine

Pervasive (adj) spreading throughout

Until the self-study documented all these things I had no idea how pervasive they were.

Syn.: prevalent, permeating, ubiquitous, omnipresent

Perversion (n) corruption, turning from right to wrong

What monstrous perversion of the human spirit leads a sniper to open fire on a bus carrying children?

Syn.: depravity, wickedness

Petulant (adj) childishly bad-tempered

She could not stand his petulance anymore and got into the car and drove off, leaving him stunned.

Syn.: irritable, irascible, fractious

Philanderer (n) flirt, adulterer

He was handsome, fun, charming but a philanderer.

Syn.: Casanova, Lothario, libertine

Physiognomy (n) facial features

He was fascinated by her physiognomy; the prominent nose, brooding eyes and thick hair.

Syn.: countenance

Pinnacle (n) peak, zenith, summit

John Major has reached the pinnacle of his political career.

Syn.: crest, apex, vertex

Placid (adj) not easily excited or irritated

She was a placid child who rarely cried.

Syn.: calm, tranquil, imperturbable, serene

Plaintive (adj) mournful, sad

The plaintive cry was heard by all.

Syn.: wistful, doleful, pitiful, piteous, melancholy

Platitude (n) a commonplace remark

Why couldn't he, for once, say something vital and original instead of just spouting the same old platitudes?

Syn.: cliché, truism, hackneyed, banality

Plenary (adj) full, complete

The Council has plenary powers to administer the agreement.

Syn.: unconditional, comprehensive, plenipotentiary, sweeping

Pliable (adj) easily bent or molded, flexible

As babies grow bigger, their bones become less pliable.

Syn.: pliant, supple

Plummet (v) to fall suddenly

In Tokyo, share prices have plummeted for the sixth successive day.

Syn.: tumble, plunge, osedive

Plutocracy (n) government by the rich people

Financial, not moral considerations will prevail in a plutocracy.

Poignancy (n) quality that affects deeply and makes one feel very sad

The fact that he had been talking to the victims only minutes before their deaths gave the tragedy greater poignancy.

Syn.: pathos, piteousness, misery

Polarize (v) to cause to concentrate about two conflicting or contrasting positions

Missile deployment did much to further polarize opinion in Britain.

Ponderous (adj)

(i) too serious and careful

He spoke in a slow ponderous voice.

(ii) moving slowly and heavily

She watched the cow's ponderous progress.

Syn. lumbering, cumbersome, graceless

Pontificate (v) to express opinions in a dogmatic or pompous way

The new Dean pontificated on the rising expectations from today's university students.

Syn.: expound, declaim, preach

Portent (n) omen, forewarning

He was a portent of the black days to come.

Syn.: harbinger, augury, prediction, prognostication

Potable (adj) drinkable

We could not judge whether the water in the pond was potable or not.

Pragmatic (adj) practical

The company took a pragmatic decision based on local conditions.

Syn.: realistic, logical, expedient

Prattle (v) to speak childishly, babble

The salesman prattled on about various trivialities till I wanted to scream.

Syn.: chatter, prate

Precarious (adj) dependent upon chance, risky

The world is a precarious and an unstable place.

Syn.: uncertain, insecure, hazardous, perilous

Predicament (n) a difficult or unpleasant situation

The decision will leave her in a peculiar predicament.

Syn.: dilemma, quandary

Predispose (v) to give an idea beforehand, make susceptible

There is evidence to suggest that factors such as personality and attitude predispose some individuals to criminal behaviour.

Syn.: lead, prompt, liable, make vulnerable

Premonition (n) a warning in advance

He had an unshakable premonition that he would die.

Syn.: portent, forewarning, presentiment, inkling

Preposterous (adj) absurd, ridiculous

The whole idea was preposterous.

Syn.: outrageous, ludicrous, farcical, asinine

Presumptuous (adj) to be forward and arrogant

It would be presumptuous to accuse Mohan without having proof of his guilt.

Syn.: brazen, egotistical, impertinent, impudent

Pretentious (adj) affectedly grand, ostentatious

His response was full of pretentious nonsense.

Syn.: flashy, flaunty, grandiloquent

Prevaricate (v) to avoid giving a direct answer

The ministers continued to prevaricate.

Syn.: equivocate, dodge, fence, beat about the bush

Primogeniture (n) superiority given to the first child

The primogeniture endowed with Prince Andrew caused consternation to the younger prince.

Prodigal (adj) recklessly wasteful

They criticized the administration for its prodigal ways.

Syn.: extravagant, lavish, spendthrift, profligate

Prodigy (n) a highly gifted child

The Russian tennis prodigy is well on the way to becoming the youngest world champion of all time.

Syn.: genius, mastermind, virtuoso

Profane (adj) irreligious, sacrilegious

Cardinal Daly has said that churches should not be used for profane or secular purposes.

Syn.: blasphemous, impious

Progenitor (n) ancestor

He was the progenitor of a distinguished family.

Syn.: antecedent, predecessor

Progeny (n) descendants, offspring

Davis was never boastful on the subject of his progeny.

Syn.: children, progeniture

Prognosis (n) a prediction, forecasting

The hospital physiotherapist's prognosis was that Laurence might walk within 12 months.

Syn.: projection, prognostication, prophecy

Proletarian (n) ordinary working-class people

I think that proletarian referendum decides the ruling class.

Syn.: bourgeois, plebeian, commoner

Prolific (adj) abundantly fruitful, fecund

She is a prolific writer of novels and short stories.

Syn.: plentiful, profuse, copious, fertile

Provender (n) dry food for livestock

The provender formed an ideal resting place.

Provident (adj) prudent or economical

The more provident of them had taken out insurance against flooding.

Syn.: thrifty, judicious, shrewd, sagacious

Prudent (adj) careful, circumspect, provident

It is always prudent to start any exercise program gradually at first.

Syn.: judicious, sagacious, sage

Purge (v) to cleanse or rid of impurities

The leadership voted to purge the party of `hostile and anti-party elements'.

Syn.: evacuation, catharsis, purity

Purport (v) to claim, intent

The book does not purport to be a complete history of the period.

Syn.: import, allege, profess

Quack (n) an untrained person who practices medicine fraudulently

I have got a check-up with the quack next week.

Syn.: charlatan, mountebank, impostor, fraudster

Quaff (v) to drink a large amount of something with relish

They spent the evening quaffing champagne. Syn.: guzzle

Rancid (adj) having the bad smell, spoiled

There was a rancid smell coming from the kitchen.

Syn.: stale, putrid, foul, noxious

Rankle (v) to make feel angry or upset for a long time

Brittany refused to marry Justin stil rankles with him.

Syn.: annoy, nettle, infuriate, pique

Ravage (v) to destroy violently, ruin

For two decades the country has been ravaged by civil war and foreign intervention.

Syn.: pillage, devastate, demolish

Recluse (n)

(i) hermit

(ii) secluded, solitary

His widow became a virtual recluse for the remainder of her life.

Syn.: ascetic, monk, introvert

Reconnaissance (n) surveillance by army

The helicopter was returning from a reconnaissance mission.

Syn.: reconnoitering, surveillance, exploration, examination

Redoubtable (adj) formidable, fearsome, imposing

Mr. Saddam Hussein is a redoubtable fighter.

Syn.: daunting, indomitable, resolute, doughty

Refractory (adj) obstinate, unmanageable, disobedient

He was a refractory priest who refused to side with the king.

Syn.: obdurate, recalcitrant, intransigent, intractable

Regicide (n) murder of a monarch

He had become the czar through regicide.

Regimen (n) regulated system of diet, exercise

Whatever regimen has been prescribed should be rigorously followed.

Regression (n) to return to an earlier and a less advanced state of development

The country's obsession with military issues and neglect of economic development will only hasten its regression.

Relic (n) something left from an earlier time

The tower is a relic of grim days when big houses had to be fortified against invaders.

Syn.: vestige, trace, artifact, heirloom

Remiss (adj) negligent, derelict

I would be remiss if I did not do something about it.

Syn.: irresponsible, careless, lackadaisical

Remonstrate (v) to protest

He remonstrated with the referee about his dismissal.

Syn.: expostulate, complain

Rendezvous (adj) meeting place, venue

Their rendezvous would be the Penta Hotel at Heathrow Airport.

Replete (adj) well filled, stuffed

The apartment was replete with expensive antiques.

Syn.: satiated, gorged, overflowing, brimming

Reprehensible (adj) objectionable, culpable, blameworthy

Mr. Cramer said the violence by anti- overnment protestors was reprehensible.

Syn.: deplorable, despicable, erring, opprobrious

Reprimand (v) rebuke severely or formally

He was reprimanded by a teacher for talking in the corridor.

Syn.: admonish, criticize, chastise, chide, upbraid

Repudiate (v) to banish, renounce

The Prime Minister has repudiated racist remarks made by the Conservative Party.

Syn.: reject, abandon, disavow, discard

Resplendent (adj) dazzling, splendid

Bessie, resplendent in royal blue velvet, was hovering beside the table.

Syn.: radiant, glittering, spectacular, magnificent

Restitution (n) pay for damage, reimbursement

The victims of the rail accident are demanding full restitution.

Syn.: compensation, indemnity, remuneration

Resuscitate (v) to revive

He has submitted a bid to resuscitate the weekly magazine, which closed in April.

Syn.: rescue, resurrect, revitalize, rejuvenate

Reticent (adj) reserved, uncommunicative

Mrs. Smith, normally a reticent woman, took it upon herself to write to the President.

Syn.: introverted, diffident, inhibited, withdrawn

Retinue (n) followers, attendants

Mind trainers are now as much a part of the tennis stars' retinue as the body trainers.

Syn.: entourage, escort, cortege

Retort (n) a quick, sharp reply

His sharp retort clearly made an impact.

Syn.: rejoinder, response, riposte

Retribution (n) severe punishment

He didn't want any further involvement for fear of retribution.

Syn.: reprisal, retaliation, nemesis

Ribald (adj) obscene, bawdy, wanton

She made some ribald comments about a fellow guest's body language.

Syn.: lewd, lascivious, vulgar, indecent

Rigmarole (n) a long and complicated procedure to get something

I had no wish to go through the whole rigmarole again and so I nipped the problem in the bud.

Syn.: ceremony, ritual, procedure

Ruddy (adj) looking red and healthy

He had a naturally ruddy complexion, even more flushed now from dancing.

Syn.: rubicund

Ruse (n) artifice, stratagem, ploy

She tried to think of a ruse to get him out of the house.

Syn.: trick, tactic, contrivance, subterfuge

Sacrilegious (adj) showing great disrespect toward something holy

Leading clerics condemned the book as a sacrilegious attack on their faith.

Syn.: sinful, blasphemous, profane, impious

Sacrosanct (adj) very sacred, holy, inviolable

I'll work till late in the evening, but my weekends are sacrosanct.

Syn.: hallowed, respected

Sadistic (adj) inclined to cruelty

He took sadistic pleasure in taunting the boy.

Syn.: brutal, barbarous, perverted, vicious

Sagacious (adj) showing good judgment and understanding

He is regarded as a wise and sagacious leader.

Syn.: wise, discerning, astute, perspicacious

Salacious (adj) lecherous, lustful

The papers concentrated on the more salacious aspects of the case.

Syn.: wanton, obscene, ribald, titillating

Salubrious (adj) pleasant to live in, clean and healthy

We had to move to a house in a less salubrious area.

Syn.: wholesome, salutary, wholesome

Salutary (adj) beneficial, tending to improve

This would have a salutary effect upon the health of the family.

Syn.: salubrious, advantageous

Sartorial (adj) relating to clothes

He was known for his sartorial elegance.

Satiate (v) to satisfy fully, gratify completely

There is usually enough fruit on one apple tree to satiate several children.

Scourge (n) severe suffering or trouble

Drugs are a scourge that is devastating our society.

Syn.: affliction, bane, curse, misfortune

Sedentary (adj) requiring sitting, desk-bound

Obesity and a sedentary lifestyle have been linked with an increased risk of heart disease.

Syn.: inactive, stationary

Sedition (n) rebellion against the government in power

Government officials charged him with sedition.

Syn.: revolt, mutiny, insurrection, fomentation

Serendipity (n) a seeming gift for finding something good accidentally

Meeting her like that, and there of all places, was true serendipity!

Syn.: chance, fluke, fortuity, providence

Serenity (n) the quality or state of being serene, calmness, tranquility

I had a wonderful feeling of peace and serenity when I saw my child.

Syn.: sangfroid, placidity

Sinuous (adj) bending, winding

I drove along the sinuous mountain roads.

Syn.: circuitous, serpentine, meandering

Skullduggery (n) dishonest behaviour, trickery

Now everything is coming out and it confirms our suspicions of skullduggery.

Syn.: fraudulence, chicanery, machinations

Slander (n) defamation

North Korea has been a target of threats and slanders from the major western powers.

Syn.: calumny, libel, aspersions, vilification, disparagement

Sleight (n) skill, dexterity

Last year's profits were more the result of financial sleight of hand than genuin growth.

Syn.: adroitness, deftness, nimbleness

Sloth (n) lazy and unwilling to work

Employers claimed that the workers were lazy, bringing the sloth of the countryside to the mines.

Syn.: lethargy, torpidity, indolence, lassitude

Slovenly (adj) careless, untidy

Lisa was irritated by the slovenly attitude of her boyfriend Sean.

Syn.: unkempt, sloppy, disheveled

Sobriquet (n) nickname

In 1970, Lawton Chiles walked the length of Florida to win election to the US Senate, earning the sobriquet `Walkin' Lawton'.

Sojourn (n) temporary stay, respite

During their sojourn in South Africa these Italians also stayed ostensibly as tourists at the Onset Hotel in East London.

Syn.: stopover

Solicitous (adj) showing attention or concern

He was extremely solicitous of his guests.

Syn.: considerate, thoughtful, interested

Somatic (adj) corporeal, physical

His problem is not somatic alone, it is psychosomatic also.

Somnambulist (n) sleepwalker

He was walking more like a somnambulist than a person fully awake.

Sonorous (adj) having a pleasant full deep sound, resonant

`Doctor McKee?' the man called in an even, sonorous voice.

Syn.: booming, vibrant, resounding, reverberating

Soporific (adj) inducing sleep

The warmth of the room and the monotony of the speaker's voice grew soporific.

Syn.: somnolent, sedative, calmative, tranquillizing, somniferous

Spasmodic (adj) sporadic, periodic

He managed to stifle the spasmodic sobs of panic rising in his throat.

Syn.: intermittent, fitful, erratic

Specious (adj) seeming right or true but actually wrong or false

It is unlikely that the Duke was convinced by such specious arguments.

Syn.: misleading, deceptive, fallacious, sophistic, casuistic

Splenetic (adj) bad-tempered and angry

Normally sweet and kind, she had a splenetic side that occasionally showed itself.

Syn.: peevish, cross, fretful, petulant, irascible

Spurn (v) to reject or refuse in a proud way

He spurned the advice of management consultants.

Syn.: despise, disdain, scorn, repudiate

Stentorian (adj) loud and powerful

He bellowed in a stentorian voice.

Syn.: strident, blaring, raucous, sonorous

Stickler (n) perfectionist

Lucy was a stickler for perfection and everything had to be exactly right.

Stoic (adj) impassive, emotionless

They were stoic, brave and determined to see me through.

Syn.: phlegmatic, callous, sedate, insensitive

Stolid (adj) not showing much emotion or interest

He glanced furtively at the stolid faces of the two detectives.

Syn.: impassive, apathetic, phlegmatic, placid

Strident (adj) harsh-sounding, shrill, grating, vociferous

In the late 1920s the party began to adopt a more strident national posture.

Syn.: raucous, jarring, dissonant

Stultify (v)

(i) cause to appear foolish

(ii) negate, neutralize, make ineffective

A rigid routine can be stultifying and boring.

Stupor (n) unconscious and unable to act or think normally

He fell back onto the sofa in a drunken stupor.

Syn.: daze, torpor, coma

Subservient (adj) behaving like a slave, servile

The press was accused of being subservient to the government.

Syn.: deferential, docile, acquiescent

Subterfuge (n) deception, artifice, ploy

Most people can see right through that type of subterfuge.

Syn.: trickery, guile, chicanery, sophistry, fraudulence

Succinct (adj) concise, brief, pithy

If you have something to say make sure that it is accurate, succinct and to the point.

Syn.: compact, laconic, terse

Succor (v) to help, assist

Helicopters fly in appalling weather to succor shipwrecked mariners.

Syn.: aid, support

Succulent (adj) juicy

Savor a succulent Soul Food dinner and discover the traditional Southern cuisine.

Syn.: luscious, pulpy, delectable, palatable

Sully (v) to soil, stain, tarnish, or besmirch

She claimed they were sullying the Conservative Party's good name.

Syn.: taint, blemish, contaminate, defile

Sumptuous (adj) involving great expense, lavish

She produces elegant wedding gowns in a variety of sumptuous fabrics.

Syn.: luxurious, opulent, extravagant, lush

Supercilious (adj) disdainful or contemptuous

Her eyebrows were arched in supercilious surprise.

Syn.: haughty, arrogant, condescending, snobbish

Supine (adj) lying on back, prostate

I lay supine on the poolside grass.

Syn.: recumbent

Surfeit (n) surplus, profusion

Indigestion can be brought on by a surfeit of rich food.

Syn.: abundance, glut, avalanche, overdose

Surmise (v) to guess, conjecture

There's so little to go on, we can only surmise what happened.

Syn.: seduce, speculate, infer

Surreptitious (adj) clandestine, private, covert

He made a surreptitious entrance to the club through the little door in the brick wall.

Syn.: secret, stealthy, furtive, concealed

Suture (n) stitch

The doctor put six sutures for the wound on his face.

Sybarite (n) very fond of self- ndulgence and luxury

Not all rich people are sybarite by nature.

Syn.: hedonist, epicure, libertine, gourmand

Sycophant (n) servile flatterer

He was frightened to tell the dictator what he might not like, as the dictatorwas surrounded by sycophants

Syn.: toady, fawner, obsequious, minion

Sylvan (adj) connected with woods and trees

The sylvan lifestyle of the aborigines is genuine.

Tacit (adj) implied, understood

By tacit agreement, the subject was never mentioned again.

Syn.: implicit, insinuated, suggested

Tactile (adj) related to the sense of touch

Babies who sleep with their parents receive much more tactile stimulation than babies who sleep in a cot.

Tarry (v) to delay, linger

Two old boys tarried on the street corner discussing cattle.

Syn.: dawdle, procrastinate, toiler

Tantamount (adj) equivalent, parallel

If he resigned it would be tantamount to admitting that he was guilty.

Syn.: comparable, commensurate

Taper (n) long thin candle

She lit the gas with a taper.

Syn.: wick

Tautological (adj) needlessly repetitious, wordy

I don't wish to enter a tautological debate with you on this topic.

Syn.: redundant, superfluous, verbose

Taxing (adj) very demanding work

She wondered whether she should agree to this taxing assignment as she was just getting over an emotional crisis.

Syn.: exacting, arduous, onerous, strenuous

Tedium (n) boredom

She longed for something to relieve the tedium of everyday life.

Syn.: monotony, ennui, routineness, mundaneness

Temerity (n) boldness

He had the temerity to call me a liar.

Syn.: audacity, effrontery, impudence, impertinence

Tenacious (adj) persistent, holding fast

The party has kept its tenacious hold on power for more than twenty years.

Syn.: pertinacious, resolute, diligent, sedulous

Tendentious (adj) having an underlying purpose

He claims that the article gives a distorted and highly tendentious view of the political situation in the country.

Tenet (n) principle, doctrine

The judge's ruling was based on the simple commonsense tenet that no man is above the law.

Syn.: belief, precept, credo, dogma, canon

Tensile (adj) stretchable

Certain materials can be anufactured with a high tensile strength.

Tepid (adj) lukewarm, not enthusiastic

The play was greeted with tepid applause.

Syn.: warmish, apathetic, indifferent, perfunctory

Terse (adj) free of superfluous words, concise, succinct

The President issued a terse statement denying the charges.

Syn.: pithy, laconic

Testator (n) maker of a will

He was trying to prove that the testator was under duress.

Theocracy (n) government by religious leaders

They mean to create a theocracy in America, to impose their sectarian views through law.

Thrifty (adj) careful about spending money

He was brought up to be thrifty and never to get into debt.

Syn.: economical, frugal, prudent, parsimonious, abstemious

Throes (n) violent pains

Despite being in the throes, the lady could make it to the hospoital all alone.

Syn.: agony, paroxysm, torment, anguish

Thwart (v) to prevent, hinder

She was thwarted in her attempt to take control of the party.

Syn.: foil, frustrate, baulk, forestall, impede

Timidity (n) lack of self-confidence

The President's critics say he has been too timid in responding to changing international developments.

Syn.: cowardliness

Timorous (adj) nervous and frightened

Some delegates believe the final declaration is likely to be too timorous.

Syn.: apprehensive, quaking, cowering

Tirade (n) angry speech, criticizing someone

She launched into a tirade of abuse against politicians.

Syn.: harangue, diatribe, invective, polemic

Titular (adj) having a status but no real power

He is a titular head, and merely signs letters occasionally.

Syn.: nominal, token, ostensible

Torpor (n) sluggishness, having no energy or enthusiasm

In the heat, they sank into a state of torpor.

Syn.: dormancy, latency, torpidity, lethargy

Tractable (adj) easy to deal with or control, docile

This approach helps to make the issues more tractable.

Syn.: governable, amenable, complaisant

Traduce (v) to slander

We have been traduced in the press as xenophobic bigots.

Syn.: libel, vilify, malign, calumniate, disparage

Tranquility (n) state of being tranquil, calmness, serenity

While it has lost its tranquility, the area has gained in liveliness.

Syn.: quietude, serenity, sedateness, placidity

Travail (n) unpleasant experience of hard work

He did whatever he could to ease their travail.

Syn.: drudgery, tribulation, privation

Trenchant (adj) cutting, sharp, incisive

His trenchant views on the subject are well known.

Syn.: acute, penetrating

Trepidation (n) great worry or fear, apprehension

He knocked on the door with some trepidation.

Syn.: dread, anxiety, nervousness, consternation

Tribulation (n) great trouble or suffering

He is now at peace with himself after all the tribulations and troubles are over.

Syn.: affliction, distress, ordeal, adversity

Trite (adj) dull and boring

The movie is teeming with obvious and trite ideas.

Syn.: hackneyed, prosaic, stereotyped, banal

Truculence (n) ferocity

"Your secretary said you'd be wanting a cleaner," she announced with her usual truculence.

Syn.: defiance, belligerence, antagonism, pugnacity

Tryst (n) secret meeting between lovers

The lovers tryst was rudely interrupted by the police.

Syn.: rendezvous

Turbid (adj) muddy, dirty

Several species of fish inhabit these turbid shallow waters.

Syn.: clouded, opaque

Turgid (adj)

(i) swollen, inflated, enlarged

(ii) bombastic, pompous

The articles she writes are very turgid which makes them very difficult to read.

Syn.: bloated, distended, pretentious, grandiose

Turpitude (n) immoral behavior

Such is the turpitude that our society is facing today that parents are afraid to confront their wards, lest they turn against them.

Syn.: wickedness, depravity, vice, degeneracy

Tutelage (n) guidance

Under his tutelage, she started reading widely again.

Ubiquitous (adj) seeming to be everywhere, omnipresent

It is said that god is ubiquitous.

Syn.: pervasive, prevalent, rife

Umbrage (n) take offence

He took umbrage at her remarks and left the party.

Syn.: be affronted, be annoyed, be indignant

Unctuous (adj) insincerely suave, bland

The unctuous toady gave the dictator a fulsome introduction..

Syn.: sycophantic, ingratiating, obsequious, servile

Unguent (n) ointment

The village doctor applied some unguent on the patient's forehand.

Unsolicited (adj) to give unwanted advice

Patricia called to pass on an unsolicited manuscript.

Usury (n) lending money at unfair rates of interest

Barefaced robbery, lies and immoral usury are the tools of the work of the world's greatest auction firms.

Syn.: shylocking

Utopia (n) an imaginary ideal place

Many books describe the perfect society, a near Utopian state.

Syn.: paradise, nirvana, bliss, idyll

Venal (adj) prepared to do dishonest things for money

Ian Trimmer is corrupt and thoroughly venal.

Syn.: mercenary, unscrupulous

Verbose (adj) using or containing an excess of words

The prose of his official communications was so laboured, pompous and verbose.

Syn.: wordy, prolix, rambling, effusive

Verisimilitude (n) authenticity, quality of seeming true

To add verisimilitude, the stage is covered with sand for the desert scenes.

Syn.: credibility, tangibility, validity

Verity (n) a truth or fact, a true principle

She has spent her life in a search for eternal verities.

Syn.: reality, actuality

Vestige (n) a small trace, mark or sign

There is not a vestige of truth in the rumor.

Syn.: indication, hint, remnant, evidence

Vex (v) to anger, annoy, worry or irritate

The memory of their conversation still vexed him.

Syn.: displease, irk, bother

Vicarious (adj) experienced or realized through imaginative or sympathetic

participation in the experience of another *He got a vicarious thrill out of watching his son score the winning goal*

Syn.: commissioned,

substituted, empathetic

Vicissitudes (n)

(i) changes that occur at stages in a person's life

(ii) a difficulty or hardship or a course of action that is usually beyond one's control

The vicissitudes of his life are a thing of the past, he is a successful interior designer now.

Vilify (v) to malign or slander

The press vilified them as `international terrorists'.

Syn.: denigrate, belittle, disparage, libel

Vindicate (v) to justify or to clear from guilt or accusation

I have every confidence that this decision will be fully vindicated.

Syn.: support, defend

Virile (adj)

(i) relating to the characteristics of an adult male

(ii) a male possessing high sexual drive or capacity to procreate

(iii) strong, forceful or vigorous

He wanted his sons to become strong, virile, and athletic like himself.

Syn.: masculine, potent, manly

Virulent (adj) extremely bitter, hostile, dangerous or harmful

A very virulent form of the disease appeared in China.

Syn.: venomous, potent, vituperative

Visage (n) face or appearance

The visage of the leader was used time and again in the caricature.

Syn.: countenance, features, facade

Vituperative (adj) using abusive language

He is often the victim of vituperative remarks concerning his wealth.

Syn.: insulting, offensive, malicious, scathing

Vivacious (adj) lively, in high spirits

He had three pretty, vivacious daughters.

Syn.: bubbly, animated, vibrant, effervescent

Vociferous (adj) characterized by loud (or harsh) clamour or noise

The vociferous crowd demanded to see the President of the council.

Syn.: vocal, voluble, noisy, strident

Volition (n) power to choose or make a conscious decision

They left entirely of their own volition (because they wanted to).

Syn.: wish, will, choice, option

Voluble (adj) talking easily and at length, fluent

Evelyn was very voluble on the subject of women's rights.

Syn.: loquacious, articulate, verbose, garrulous

Voracious (adj) eating or wanting large amounts of something

Rohan has voracious and undiscriminating appetite for facts.

Syn.: rapacious, insatiable, avid, ravenous

Vulpine (adj) resembling a fox

A vulpine attitude can never help.

Syn.: crafty, clever, deceitful

Waggish (adj) done or made for fun or sport, humorous

The waggish jokes of this comedian are very popular with the crowd.

Syn.: humorous, playful, jocular, frolicsome, mischievous

Waif (n)

(i) without an owner

(ii) person without home or friends

We can see so many waifs on streets begging food.

Syn.: stray, urchin, orphan

Wallow (v)

(i) to indulge in some emotion

All day, she kept *wallowing* in self-pity.

(ii) to lie and roll (especially in mud or water)

He loves to wallow in a hot bath after a game.

Syn.: flounder, slosh, immerse, wade

Wane (v) to gradually decrease or weaken, to become less important

Her enthusiasm for the whole idea was waning rapidly.

Syn.: ebb, diminish, fade, vanish

Wanton (adj)

(i) cruel or destructive behaviour

(ii) unjustified or motiveless behaviour

(iii) behaving in a very immoral way

It is all right for a man to flirt but a woman behaving in the same way is still considered wanton and a tart.

Syn.: gratuitous, unwarranted, willful

Wary (adj) characterized by caution or watchfulness

The police will need to keep a wary eye on this area of town.

Syn.: circumspect, cagey, chary, guarded

Welt (n)

(i) a sound beating

(ii) a ridge or lump raised on the body usually by a blow

He had a reddening welt on his temple and his nose was bleeding.

Syn.: bruise, contusion, injury, scar, woun

Wheedle (v) to try and persuade by using coaxing words or flattery

She wheedled me into lending her my new coat.

Syn.: convince, influence, cajole, inveigle

Wily (adj) cunning and clever

His wily opponent outwitted him.

Syn.: crafty, sneaky, sly, devious, scheming

Whorl (n)

(i) spiral ring (like that of human fingerprints)

(ii) ring of leaves, flowers around the stem of a plant

Each flower is composed of an inner whorl of three petals and an outer trio of sepals.

Syn.: spiral, coil, curl, swirl

Winnow (v)

(i) to separate desirable fromundesirable elements

(ii) to remove or to get rid of (something undesirable or unwanted)

The administration officials have winnowed the list of candidates to three.

Syn.: choose, select, sort, whisk, extract, separate, sift

Winsome (adj) pleasant and attractive

She gave him a winsome smile and won him over to her side.

Syn.: engaging, charming, appealing

Wistful (adj) thinking sadly or pensively

"I can't help feeling slightly wistful about the perks I'm giving up," he said.

Syn.: melancholy, reflective, regretful, longing

Wizened (adj) withered, shriveled or dried up

Even at the age of seventy, he has not wizened.

Syn.: wrinkled, lined, aged

Wont (n) a habit or custom

She got up early, as it was her wont.

Syn.: oft-beaten path, second nature, routine, rule, practice

Wraith (n) a ghost of a person (usually supposed to appear around the time of his or her death)

That child flits about like a wraith.

Syn.: specter, phantom, apparition

Wrath (n) extreme anger (can also refer to divine vengeance or retribution) *`Where have you been?' she screamed in wrath.*

Wreak (v) to do great damage or harm

Their policies would wreak havoc on the economy.

Syn.: cause, inflict

Learning Outcomes :

• Mastered the spellings of a whole lot of words which are normally misspelled.

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Learning Outcomes :

• Mastered the spellings of a whole lot of words which are normally misspelled.

• By now you should have mastered a number of words.

Assess yourself

Introduction

In this part, there are **37** tests . While solving the tests make sure that each and every concept is understood properly.

Test 1

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Replace the highlighted words in the given sentences with the appropriate synonym.

1. The intent of the innovation is to **obviate** the time spent in converting writing to speech and vice versa in class.

(*a*) actuate (*b*) aggregate (*c*) preclude (*d*) occlude

2. The concept of punishment has become a virtual taboo; it is regarded as primitive, **atavistic**, an uneducated desire for vengeance, and a throwback to an uncivilised age.

(*a*) regressive (*b*) deficient (*c*) emergent (*d*) fallible

3. Dissociation is a method by which the personality utilizes one part of the organism independently of the **antagonistic** trends of the personality.

(*a*) hypocritical (*b*) illimitable (*c*) litigious (*d*) adversarial

4. Her family is a **storied** one, albeit the kind of stories that involved yellow journalism, character assassination, political manipulation and gossip mongering.

(*a*) mettlesome (*b*) chronicled (*c*) sinuous (*d*) privileged

5. Mill's concern for the status of women **dovetails** with the rest of his thought—it is not a disconnected issue.

(*a*) interlocks (*b*) cuts (*c*) intersects (*d*) stultifies

6. Picasso is generally considered in his technical virtuosity, enormous versatility, and incredible originality and **prolificity** to have been the foremost figure in 20th-century art.

(*a*) tenacity (*b*) utility (*c*) temerity (*d*) fecundity

7. The persistence of explicit bias in contemporary culture has led some critics to maintain that implicit bias is of secondary concern. But hundreds of studies of implicit bias show that its effects can be equally **insidious.**

(*a*) virulent (*b*) tremulous (*c*) vacuous (*d*) stealthy

8. Humid weather will also **ratchet** up the sweating rate—but in high humidity, sweat typically drips off the body rather than evaporating, thus providing no cooling effect.

(*a*) pawl (*b*) tinge (*c*) subsist (*d*) tarry

9. Borrowing principles from industries like aviation, the **matrix** of systems Volvo and other carmakers are working on will interact to start crash prevention and mitigation hours, rather than milliseconds, before impact.

(*a*) template (*b*) proxy (*c*) progeny (*d*) mural

10. It matters to us what happens to us after we die. This statement is a **truism** to most reflective adults, and it is confirmed rather than contradicted by the contemporary culture of death-denial.

(*a*) truncation (*b*) anarchism (*c*) platitude (*d*) nemesis

11. What I can **construe** from the opposition's remarks is that they are bent upon defaming us.

(*a*) fabricate (*b*) misinterpret (*c*) fashion (*d*) interpret

12. Many human beings live with the **illusion** that their problems are insurmountable, and continue to blame their destiny.

(*a*) fact (*b*) image (*c*) clarity (*d*) deadlock

13. The judge **upbraided** the accused for insulting the court.

(*a*) reproached (*b*) punished (*c*) forgave (*d*) tolerated

14. I chose the party, **ostensibly** thrown in his honour, as the perfect setting for his murder.

(*a*) completely (*b*) obviously (*c*) stiffly (*d*) apparently

15. The professor was famous for his **discursive** lectures.

(*a*) succinct (*b*) laconic (*c*) brief (*d*) rambling

Test 2

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question below consists of a word, followed by four words. Choose the word that is most nearly same in meaning to the word.

Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is best.

1. sanguine

(*a*) cynical (*b*) suspicious (*c*) doubtful (*d*) cheerful

2. timorous

(*a*) plucky (*b*) valiant (*c*) fearful (*d*) heroic

3. brook

(*a*) hinder (*b*) tolerate (*c*) inhibit (*d*) outlaw

4. saturnine

(*a*) positive (*b*) joyful (*c*) merry (*d*) gloomy

5. comity

(*a*) courtesy (*b*) rudeness (*c*) impertinence (*d*) insolence

6. anathema

(*a*) adulation (*b*) admiration (*c*) love (*d*) curse

7. trite

(*a*) hackneyed (*b*) unusual (*c*) imaginative (*d*) unique

8. exiguous

(*a*) copious (*b*) rich (*c*) scanty (*d*) profuse

9. fallow

(*a*) sown (*b*) planted (*c*) uncultivated (*d*) cultivated

10. emasculate

(*a*) reinforce (*b*) fortify (*c*) brace (*d*) weaken

Directions: In the given questions, one word in every sentence has been underlined. Pick the option that best describes the meaning of the underlined word in the given context.

11. I don't know who elected him; he always embarrasses me with his gauche behaviour.

(*a*) polished (*b*) graceless (*c*) tactful (*d*) modest

12. The audience fled the hall as his crass cacophony began to sound over the speakers.

(*a*) jarring sound (*b*) music

(*c*) melody (*d*) voice

13. He averred that we can definitely manifest our highest potential within this lifetime if we only care to bring out a great inner change.

(*a*) erred (*b*) went on (*c*) affirmed (*d*) discussed

Directions: Use the context to help you choose the best meaning or synonym for each highlighted word.

14. Fortunately, the dizzy spell was **transient**. He was able to continue playing within seconds and had no trouble winning the match.

When you describe an event as "transient," you are saying that _____.

(*a*) it sounds like a train (*b*) it is quite harmful

(*c*) it helps you win (*d*) it doesn't last long

15. Rita and Rahul are having a **dispute** over which radio station to play at work. It would be so much simpler if they both liked the same kind of music.

A dispute is a _____.

(*a*) musical instrument (*b*) choice of music

(*c*) discovery (*d*) disagreement

Test 3

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question below consists of a word, followed by four words. Choose the word that is most nearly same in meaning to the word.

Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is best.

1. baleful

(*a*) benevolent (*b*) menacing (*c*) kind (*d*) benign

2. abeyance

(*a*) promptness (*b*) suspension (*c*) swiftness (*d*) alacrity

3. palpable

(*a*) tentative (*b*) unsure (*c*) tangible (*d*) vague

4. puerile

(*a*) experienced (*b*) responsible (*c*) immature (*d*) stable

5. elixir

(*a*) potion (*b*) toxic (*c*) panacea (*d*) poison

6. bauble

(*a*) costly (*b*) meritorious (*c*) meretricious (*d*) resplendent

7. adage

(*a*) senile (*b*) maxim (*c*) verbose (*d*) dotage

8. cavil

(*a*) carping (*b*) approve (*c*) praise (*d*) adulate

9. incandescent

(*a*) dim (*b*) shady (*c*) murky (*d*) bright

10. remonstrate

(*a*) agree (*b*) concur (*c*) consent (*d*) protest

Directions: In the given questions, one word in every sentence has been underlined. Pick the option that best describes the meaning of the underlined word in the given context.

11. The philosophy that espouses the dignity, equality and freedom of human beings, is truly a world religion.

(*a*) embraces (*b*) adjudges (*c*) withstands (*d*) fudges

12. Beethoven's father forced his son to learn music from infancy, with the ambition of presenting him as a child prodigy and making his living off him.

(*a*) construct (*b*) epitome (*c*) amateur (*d*) wonder

13. Members had been converging on Tokyo's Haneda International Airport since early morning, and by around **9:30** the observation deck was packed with people.

(*a*) gathering (*b*) camping (*c*) conceding (*d*) brooking

14. Everywhere people were quailing under the threat of nuclear holocaust, living in fear and civil strife.

(*a*) prompting (*b*) adhesion (*c*) jocund (*d*) cowering

15. Henry, totally oblivious to the group's predicament, was worried that he would be in the way if he stayed too long.

(*a*) wholly (*b*) quandary (*c*) laboriously (*d*) mirth

Test 4

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question below consists of a word, followed by four words. Choose the word that is most nearly same in meaning to the word.

Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is best.

1. propitiate

(*a*) appease (*b*) hassle (*c*) needle (*d*) goad

2. apprise

(*a*) withhold (*b*) ignore (*c*) conceal (*d*) inform

3. fiat

(*a*) abide (*b*) command (*c*) comply (*d*) conform

4. arcane

(*a*) standard (*b*) typical (*c*) customary (*d*) mysterious

5. genesis

(*a*) bane (*b*) germane (*c*) origin (*d*) eccentric

6. protean

(*a*) steady (*b*) stable (*c*) versatile (*d*) constant

7. arraign

(*a*) exculpate (*b*) free (*c*) indict (*d*) reign

8. obloquy

(*a*) slander (*b*) respect (*c*) admiration (*d*) credit

9. defalcate

(*a*) embezzle (*b*) repay (*c*) reimburse (*d*) refund

10. succor

(*a*) thwart (*b*) assistance (*c*) impede (*d*) deter

Directions: In the given questions, one word in every sentence has been underlined. Pick the option that best describes the meaning of the underlined word in the given context.

11. As they stood atop the hill, a beautiful panorama of city lights unfolded beneath their eyes.

(*a*) incoherent (*b*) curt (*c*) succinct (*d*) vista

12. Mason arose resolutely from the realm of suffering and embarked boldly on a course of arduous study.

(*a*) upright (*b*) conscientious (*c*) exhilarating (*d*) gruelling

13. Gandhi's death was tantamount to losing his spiritual pillar.

(*a*) equivalent (*b*) awkward (*c*) discreet (*d*) unpretentious

14. There was a patio that looked out over the ocean, which was directly behind the hotel.

(*a*) reverberation (*b*) veranda (*c*) strain (*d*) mansion

15. Members of the group had given up their summer vacations and thrown themselves feverishly into the task of translation, pondering seriously over which words to use.

(*a*) drifting (*b*) accordingly (*c*) frenziedly (*d*) ploughed

Test 5

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question below consists of a word, followed by four words. Choose the word that is most nearly same in meaning to the word.

Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is best.

1. aegis

(*a*) discourage (*b*) deter (*c*) shield (*d*) misguide

2. besmirch

(*a*) admire (*b*) extol (*c*) commend (*d*) tarnish

3. alcove

(*a*) awning (*b*) recess (*c*) gap (*d*) wedge

4. mordant

(*a*) incisive (*b*) gentle (*c*) placid (*d*) temperate

5. blarney

(*a*) affront (*b*) slur (*c*) slight (*d*) flattery

6. nugatory

(*a*) worthless (*b*) valuable (*c*) precious (*d*) expensive

7. blithe

(*a*) tense (*b*) anxious (*c*) bothered (*d*) indifferent

8. tepid

(*a*) passionate (*b*) fervent (*c*) lukewarm (*d*) animated

9. ineffable

(*a*) definable (*b*) utter (*c*) shallow (*d*) inexpressible

10. ethereal

(*a*) apparent (*b*) conspicuous (*c*) light (*d*) manifest

11. goad

(*a*) good (*b*) curb (*c*) beat (*d*) spur

12. sacrilege

(*a*) blasphemy (*b*) sacrifice (*c*) surrender (*d*) kill

13. twirl

(*a*) twinkle (*b*) entangle (*c*) terebene (*d*) twist

14. wharf

(*a*) dock (*b*) whiff (*c*) conspiracy (*d*) ship

15. beatific

(*a*) beautiful (*b*) beau (*c*) bawdy (*d*) celestial

Test 6

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the given highlighted word.

1.baffling

(*a*) Difficult (*b*) simple (*c*) puzzling (*d*) long

2.dishevelled

(*a*) untidy (*b*) fierce (*c*) foolish (*d*) peculiar

3.audacious

(*a*) useless (*b*) bold (*c*) foolish (*d*) crazy

4.clandestine

(*a*) prearranged (*b*) hurried (*c*) secretive (*d*) important

5.antipathy

(*a*) bashfulness (*b*) stage fright (*c*) friendliness (*d*) hostility

6.puissant

(*a*) potent (*b*) patent (*c*) polemic (*d*) perfect

7.asunder

(*a*) surrender (*b*) apart (*c*) capitulate (*d*) aghast

8.foster

(*a*) protest (*b*) request (*c*) promote (*d*) replace

9.recapitulate

(*a*) refrain (*b*) reiterate (*c*) summarize (*d*) remind

10.levity

(*a*) clarity (*b*) frivolity (*c*) parity (*d*) familiarity

11.acrimony

(*a*) tenderness (*b*) slow (*c*) exonerate (*d*) virulence

12.beguile

(*a*) apprise (*b*) stupidity (*c*) convict (*d*) hoodwink

13.exalt

(*a*) expand (*b*) aggrandize (*c*) enforce (*d*) extol

14.quandary

(*a*) dilemma (*b*) sullen (*c*) mitigate (*d*) diffident

15.rapacious

(*a*) meek (*b*) cunning (*c*) voracious (*d*) articulate

Test 7

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question below consists of a word, followed by four words. Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word.

Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is best.

1. penurious

(*a*) opulent (*b*) impoverished (*c*) destitute (*d*) indigent

2. resplendent

(*a*) dull (*b*) splendid (*c*) dazzling (*d*) magnificent

3. lithe

(*a*) supple (*b*) flexible (*c*) agile (*d*) nimble

4. celibacy

(*a*) spinster (*b*) misogamy (*c*) hermit (*d*) pristine

5. salutary

(*a*) inclement (*b*) helpful (*c*) useful (*d*) productive

6. modicum

(*a*) little (*b*) bit (*c*) depravity (*d*) degree

7. chagrin

(*a*) mortification (*b*) vexation (*c*) annoyance (*d*) benison

8. tacit

(*a*) unspoken (*b*) articulated (*c*) implicit (*d*) inferred

9. cherubic

(*a*) divine (*b*) holy (*c*) angelic (*d*) choleric

10. tendentious

(*a*) partial (*b*) biased (*c*) controversial (*d*) objective

Directions: The highlighted words in the sentences given below have words with similar meanings in the given options. Find the odd man (opposites).

11. Most of us want to be **autonomous** because we want to be accountable for what we do, and because it seems that if we are not the ones calling the shots, then we cannot be accountable.

(*a*) sovereign (*b*) free (*c*) separate (*d*) dependent

12. The Six Thinking Hats technique is a model that can be used for exploring different **perspectives** towards a complex situation or challenge, seeing things in various ways is often a good idea in complex decision-making processes.

(*a*) indifferences (*b*) vistas (*c*) angles (*d*) panoramas

13. The evolution of humanity during the almost three million years of the Paleolithic proceeded in roughly four eras and each appears to have involved a **diaspora** out-of-Africa.

(*a*) displacement (*b*) migration (*c*) concentration (*d*) scattering

14. Over the past decade and a half, there has been a steadily increasing focus on intellectual property and its proceeds as sources of funding and **collateral** security.

(*a*) warranty (*b*) auxiliary (*c*) indemnity (*d*) direct

15. A slowdown in housing investment has led to a slowdown in distribution of transformer business in the US and a similar situation is **panning** out in the European markets.

(*a*) slamming (*b*) slating (*c*) praising (*d*) roasting

Test 8

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question below consists of a word, followed by four words. Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word.

Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is best.

1. éclat

(*a*) success (*b*) debacle (*c*) glory (*d*) melodious

2. palliate

(*a*) alleviate (*b*) soothe (*c*) misinterpret (*d*) exacerbate

3. malediction

(*a*) malfeasance (*b*) foreboding (*c*) cantankerous (*d*) benediction

4. balmy

(*a*) irritating (*b*) fragrant (*c*) crazy (*d*) soothing

5. pandemic

(*a*) pander (*b*) original (*c*) endemic (*d*) provincial

6. rapaciousness

(*a*) greedy (*b*) abstinence (*c*) plundering (*d*) mercenary

7. avaricious

(*a*) intentional (*b*) chivalrous (*c*) covetous (*d*) malicious

8. callow

(*a*) immature (*b*) adolescent (*c*) green (*d*) experienced

9. debunk

(*a*) expose (*b*) pretend (*c*) corroborate (*d*) ridicule

10. elucidate

(*a*) clarify (*b*) explain (*c*) befuddle (*d*) expound

Directions: The highlighted words in the sentences given below have words with similar meanings in the given options. Find the odd man (opposites).

11. Indian pharmaceutical companies are hiving off R&D units into separate companies in their **quest** for new drugs.

(*a*) mission (*b*) journey (*c*) pursuit (*d*) goal

12. Lev Grossman blogs about anything and everything that could be plausibly labeled **geeky**—science fiction, fantasy, video games, comic books, tech stuff, and so on.

(*a*) foolish (*b*) inept (*c*) clumsy (*d*) conventional

13. We know that all religions alike, from the lowest **fetishism** to the highest absolutism, are but so many attempts of the human soul to grasp and realise the Infinite.

(*a*) aversion (*b*) passion (*c*) fixation (*d*) engrossment

14. The **advocates** of monopoly capitalism and state socialism claim their respective economic systems are the path to universal prosperity.

(*a*) champions (*b*) campaigners (*c*) opponents (*d*) sponsors

15. A writer, writing about a foreign travel sometimes had to take the help of fictional and **banal** in order to explain a new thing that he has not come across to be comprehensible to his readers.

(*a*) hackneyed (*b*) trite (*c*) stale (*d*) protoplast

Test 9

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question below consists of a word, followed by four words. Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word.

Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is best.

1.vivacious

(*a*) loud (*b*) harsh (*c*) jarring (*d*) insipid

2.prosaic

(*a*) banal (*b*) dull (*c*) mundane (*d*) inspiring

3.cognizance

(*a*) ignorance (*b*) awareness (*c*) mindful (*d*) knowledge

4.provident

(*a*) visionary (*b*) farseeing (*c*) prophetic (*d*) apathy

5.germane

(*a*) relevant (*b*) useful (*c*) extraneous (*d*) connected

6.wanton

(*a*) chaste (*b*) licentious (*c*) lustful (*d*) dissipated

7.supine

(*a*) uninterested (*b*) unanimated (*c*) lethargic (*d*) prone

8.callow

(*a*) powerful (*b*) competitive (*c*) supreme (*d*) mature

9.pulchritude

(*a*) physical (*b*) beautiful (*c*) grotesque (*d*) chromatic

10.surreptitious

(*a*) furtive (*b*) clandestine (*c*) open (*d*) stealthy

11.riveting

(*a*) Monotonous (*b*) Appeasing (*c*) Reflective (*d*) Displeasing

12.turbid

(*a*) Specialized (*b*) Splenetic (*c*) Harmonized (*d*) Deranged

13.predilection

(*a*) Disinclination (*b*) Displacement (*c*) Disjointed (*d*) Disoriented

14.delusion

(*a*) Parity (*b*) Reality (*c*) Trickery (*d*) Falsity

15.propel

(*a*) Continue (*b*) Stop (*c*) Release (*d*) Push

Test 10

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question below consists of a word, followed by four words. Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word.

Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is best.

1. obnoxious

(*a*) pleasant (*b*) friendly (*c*) harmonious (*d*) caustic

2. sedulous

(*a*) diligent (*b*) persevering (*c*) cursory (*d*) trying

3. precocious

(*a*) intelligent (*b*) bright (*c*) gifted (*d*) nincompoop

4. cryptic

(*a*) enigmatic (*b*) evident (*c*) puzzling (*d*) hidden

5. evanescent

(*a*) transient (*b*) fleeting (*c*) bypass (*d*) enduring

6. tractable

(*a*) truculent (*b*) docile (*c*) calm (*d*) stoic

7. facile

(*a*) simplistic (*b*) superficial (*c*) easy (*d*) travail

8. proclivity

(*a*) penchant (*b*) predilection (*c*) tendency (*d*) antipathy

9. ostensible

(*a*) long-necked (*b*) inquisitive (*c*) variable (*d*) genuine

10. extant

(*a*) exist (*b*) materialize (*c*) extinct (*d*) extol

11. beseech

(*a*) Offer (*b*) Invoke (*c*) Postpone (*d*) Declare

12. probation

(*a*) empirical (*b*) pilot (*c*) apprenticeship (*d*) exultation

13. disinter:

(*a*) restrain (*b*) confiscate (*c*) resist (*d*) bury

14. diatribe:

(*a*) laudatory piece of writing (*b*) formal speech by one person

(*c*) written agreement (*d*) farewell address

15. hoodwink:

(*a*) explain (*b*) shock (*c*) lead (*d*) disabuse

Test 11

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: From the given options, choose the word that is opposite in meaning to the word given in the question.

1. Disconcert

(*a*) Fluster (*b*) Hearten (*c*) Perturb (*d*) Abash

2. Abeyance

(*a*) Abbey (*b*) Assent (*c*) Continuation (*d*) Abet

3. Fracas

(*a*) Concurrence (*b*) Fray (*c*) Quarrel (*d*) Dilemma

4. Assiduous

(*a*) Persevering (*b*) Caring (*c*) Indolent (*d*) Intelligent

5. Slander

(*a*) Malign (*b*) Traduce (*c*) Soft spoken (*d*) Praise

6. Advent

(*a*) Eulogy (*b*) Contrive (*c*) Accord (*d*) Departure

7. Awkwardness

(*a*) Aplomb (*b*) Acumen (*c*) Base (*d*) Agile

8. Depressed

(*a*) Dull (*b*) Daring (*c*) Buoyant (*d*) Aggressive

9. Urbane

(*a*) Aggressive (*b*) Bolster (*c*) Bucolic (*d*) Sophisticated

10. Harmony

(*a*) Dishonesty (*b*) Indignity (*c*) Insecurity (*d*) Discord

11. Jocular

(*a*) Active (*b*) Serious (*c*) Unknown (*d*) Equable

12. Impede

(*a*) Assist (*b*) Entreat (*c*) Dislodge (*d*) Ascribe

13. Sap

(*a*) Fortify (*b*) Alleviate (*c*) Lend credence (*d*) Hold fast

14. Commodious

(*a*) Calm (*b*) Careless (*c*) Reticent (*d*) Cramped

15. Inimitable

(*a*) Inclined to disagree (*b*) Unwilling to compete (*c*) Eager to advise (*d*) Ordinary

Test 12

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Identify the antonyms of the **highlighted** words.

1.garrulous

(*a*) empirical (*b*) pilot (*c*) apprenticeship (*d*) reticent

2.gossamer

(*a*) inflated (*b*) bombastic (*c*) corpulent (*d*) tumescent

3.gaucherie

(*a*) transgression (*b*) indiscretion (*c*) blunder (*d*) refinement

4.nefarious

(*a*) righteous (*b*) execrable (*c*) detestable (*d*) abominable

5.ebullience

(*a*) effervescence (*b*) effusiveness (*c*) exuberance (*d*) apathy

6.artlessness

(*a*) imperfection (*b*) inflection (*c*) deceit (*d*) locution

7.impugn

(*a*) contravene (*b*) attest (*c*) belie (*d*) disaffirm

8.perfidious

(*a*) recreant (*b*) treacherous (*c*) insidious (*d*) faithful

9.heterogeneous

(*a*) motley (*b*) uniform (*c*) miscellaneous (*d*) heretic

10.capricious

(*a*) ambitious (*b*) aspiring (*c*) appropriate (*d*) constant

11. Spendthrift

(a) Boorish *(b)* Servile *(c)* Prodigal *(d)* Skinflint

12. Vindictive

(a) Flamboyant *(b)* Vengeance *(c)* Forgiving *(d)* Stultify

13. Trammel

(a) Support *(b)* Hamper *(c)* Camaraderie *(d)* Contiguous

14. Truculent

(a) Aggressive *(b)* Gentle *(c)* Zeal *(d)* Zany

15. Obnoxious

(a) Agreeable *(b)* Unpleasant *(c)* Humble *(d)* Delirious

Test 13

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Fill up the blanks in the given `cloze' by selecting options which are contextually correct.

(1)

"Don't _____1. your life," a dying man tells Tony Stark, the rich and powerful hero of "Iron Man." It's good advice, but there's no worry about wasting precious hours of your own life on this movie. The_____2. is absolutely dazzling, the action is mostly exhilarating, the comedy is _____3. and the whole enormous enterprise, _____4. by Marvel comics, throbs with dramatic _____5. because the man inside the shiny red robotic rig is a daring choice for an action hero, and an inspired one. Robert Downey Jr. works marvels on his own. It's not that he has _____6. himself for the role, although he looks impressively fit, but that in such extravagant surroundings he remains true to his quick, flip wit, his _____7. style and, best of all, to his _____ 8.humanity. Thanks to him, and to his director, Jon Favreau, some of the movie's most

enjoyable scenes include Tony talking and thinking — intelligence as action — as well as soaring through the skies in his cyborg suit, and righting the world's wrongs as a knight in space-age armor. It helps that Tony Stark is an arms manufacturer with a genius I.Q., a sort of Howard Hughes _____9. by looniness. This guy is so brilliant, and Mr. Downey's performance is so smart, that you're willing to believe he can do what he does when terrorists capture him in Afghanistan — escapes their slimy clutches by building a crude_____10. of the Iron Man suit from components of Stark weapons that have fallen into the terrorists' hands. At times the movie operates in traditional James Bond territory. Tony owns exotic cars, a Malibu pad that looks like a Brasilia version of San Simeon and a private jet big enough to accommodate pole dancers.

1. (*a*) adapt (*b*) waste (*c*) hale (*d*) trim

2. (*a*) abridgment (*b*) particle (*c*) surface (*d*) gadgetry

3. (*a*) overwrought (*b*) fettered (*c*) odious (*d*) scintillating

4. (*a*) spawned (*b*) spurned (*c*) sparked (*d*) controlled

5. (*a*) acceptance (*b*) aversion (*c*) energy (*d*) bedlam

6. (*a*) reformed (*b*) belied (*c*) disported (*d*) reinvented

7. (*a*) bellicose (*b*) laconic (*c*) inopportune (*d*) quirky

8. (*a*) jaunty (*b*) dauntless (*c*) maniacal (*d*) peevish

9. (*a*) complaisant (*b*) acidulous (*c*) eclipsed (*d*) unencumbered

10. (*a*) stockade (*b*) prototype (*c*) rendition (*d*) transposition

(2)

The horse-drawn carriage that clattered up the main street of our neighbourhood was a striking [11] in our modern suburban township. The residents had begun to pride themselves (with a touch of [12], I may add) on living in an area that boasted of both exclusive houses and neighbours. The discreet and not-so discreet signs of wealth that were flaunted and bandied about spoke of a creed of [13], if not downright [14] staunchly entrenched within the small society. The scruffy musicians who emerged from the carriage and began unloading their packages were therefore viewed with [15] by the passers-by.

11.(*a*) atavism (*b*) dogmatism (*c*) anachronism (*d*) plagiarism

12.(*a*) chauvinism (*b*) stoicism (*c*) nihilism (*d*) patriotism

13.(*a*) stoicism (*b*) secularism (*c*) realism (*d*) materialism

14.(*a*) surrealism (*b*) hedonism (*c*) empiricism (*d*) relativism

15.(*a*) voyeurism (*b*) relativism (*c*) nepotism (*d*) skepticism

Test 14

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Given below are the paragraphs with blanks. Fill these blanks with the appropriate choice from the given options.

(1)

"The Finder" is a fast-paced chase thriller with a twist. Mr Harrison's previous works include "Manhattan Nocturne", a ___1___ portrait of **1990**s New York awash with money. Here too his ___2___ scene-setting makes the city itself into a character, from billionaires' penthouses to dark, ____3____ warehouses on Manhat- tan's outer edges. Some familiar themes reappear: the ___4__ of bodily decay, and the ____5____ of age; marathon sessions of life-affirming sex; and the murky world of international high finance. Most of all, there is the power of love and loyalty. A vivid backdrop and intelligent storyline, laced with a visceral physicality, make "The Finder" a masterly read.

1. (*a*) vivid (*b*) elaborate (*c*) perceptive (*d*) amicable

2. (*a*) devastating (*b*) anticipated (*c*) extravagant (*d*) atmospheric

3. (*a*) illuminated (*b*) deserted (*c*) lonely (*d*) extensive

4. (*a*) inevitability (*b*) stigma (*c*) nuisance (*d*) blessing

5. (*a*) recreation (*b*) ravages (*c*) hassles (*d*) malaise

(2)

Almost every famous person in India who has achieved anything of value and has a ___6___of integrity has endured some form of attack or ___7___. It's the ___8__ people who care only for themselves, currying favour with the authorities, who go by ___9___. They don't make any waves. The same is true in other countries as well. It's a real tragedy that the mass media only focuses on the surface of events, and doesn't bother to look into what's behind them, to consider their deeper __10__.

6. (*a*) immense (*b*) modicum (*c*) percentage (*d*) quality

7. (*a*) praise (*b*) persecution (*c*) appraisal (*d*) magnanimity

8. (*a*) intelligent (*b*) sound (*c*) sly (*d*) thinking

9. (*a*) scarred (*b*) volatile (*c*) unscathed (*d*) volcanic

10. (*a*) infer (*b*) interpret (*c*) sinister (*d*) implications

(3)

Tom Bingham on the other hand was like a snake, smooth, charming, almost ___ **11**____, exposing the weakness in the other side's argument without ever raising his voice. Bingham subsequently became my role model. As a woman I could never have been as aggressive an advocate as Derry."

Where did it all go wrong? Mr Prescott felt deeply that he was _____**12**__: "I got branded as an uneducated yob. It was an image I suppose never left me. I began to hate the press." He developed _____**13**____, caused in part, he says, by stress. An affair with

his diary secretary tore at the last _____14_____ of his authority. His book, which is a lazy, once-over-lightly non-apology of a life, does not _____15_____ it.

11. (*a*) slithery (*b*) suave (*c*) hypnotic (*d*) feisty

12. (*a*) unappreciated (*b*) aggrieved (*c*) downgraded (*d*) aggravated

13. (*a*) megalomania (*b*) emancipation (*c*) Acrophobia (*d*) Bulimia

14. (*a*) reminiscences (*b*) contours (*c*) vestiges (*d*) memoirs

15. (*a*) regret (*b*) renege (*c*) reconcile (*d*) restore

Test 15

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Given below are the paragraphs with blanks. Fill these blanks with the appropriate choices from the given options.

(1)

In the **1970**s, I acted with a theatre group called Joint Stock. We were performing, among other things, David Hare's austere play Fanshen, which _____1_____ a radical realignment of society - one which, the play suggested, might be worthy of imitation. It seemed inappropriate, after thus throwing down the _____2_____, to come on to our hopefully chastened _____3____ audience all beams and _____4_____, so we experimented with various different ways of ending the evening. The first was to come on and stand in front of the audience - not bowing, not grateful, just there, in a _____5_____ row. Resembling as we did a lineup of dangerous criminals in a police identification parade, we soon _____6_____ the audience into silence, then shuffled moodily off. Next we attempted the Russian method of _____7_____ the audience ourselves. The result was that the audience felt _____8_____ of their one moment of self-expression, and stopped clapping. Our final innovation was the most _____9_____: we just didn't come on at all. That shut `em up pretty damn quick. In the end, we just did what everyone does: we came on and took our _____10_____.

1. (*a*) adumbrated (*b*) etiolated (*c*) enumerated (*d*) aestivated

2. (*a*) prospect (*b*) chance (*c*) gloves (*d*) gauntlet

3. (*a*) moderate (*b*) enthusiastic (*c*) aggressive (*d*) bourgeois

4. (*a*) fancies (*b*) caprice (*c*) dreams (*d*) bashfulness

5. (*a*) sombre (*b*) uneven (*c*) tenebrific (*d*) turbid

6. (*a*) addled (*b*) rattled (*c*) cowed (*d*) quietened

7. (*a*) appreciating (*b*) appraising (*c*) undulating (*d*) applauding

8. (*a*) denied (*b*) deprived (*c*) denigrated (*d*) descried

9. (*a*) radical (*b*) thorough (*c*) conservative (*d*) lucrative

10. (*a*) prize (*b*) call (*c*) dissentience (*d*) applause

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10. (*a*) prize (*b*) call (*c*) dissentience (*d*) applause

(2)

The sun rose on the far horizon. But ahead lay a cold and ____11____ spiritual wasteland, ___12_____ with mistrust and hatred. The road that had to be ___13_____ was long and difficult. Yet he had set forth into that wasteland, advancing one step at a time as he cut his way through the inhospitable, untrodden ___14_____. His visit to Europe was a ___15_____ journey, meant to open the door to peace and sow seeds of humanism.

11. (*a*) base (*b*) beautiful (*c*) busy (*d*) barren

12. (*a*) departed (*b*) outside (*c*) demanding (*d*) rampant

13. (*a*) painted (*b*) stormed (*c*) forged (*d*) surprised

14. (*a*) sketch (*b*) terrain (*c*) frost (*d*) green

15. (*a*) trailblazing (*b*) appalling (*c*) infracting (*d*) bulky

Test 16

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Read the paragraphs given below and fill in the blanks with the appropriate word.

(1)

In the fourth semester at medical college, I chose [1] and [2], as my preferred areas of study. Side by side I also explored [3]. In my spare time of course, I was happiest pursuing my real passions which were quite distant from medicine-[4] and oenology.

1. *(a)* Meteorology *(b)* Psephology *(c)* Lexicology *(d)* Dermatology

2. *(a)* Etymology *(b)* Penology *(c)* Seismology *(d)* Endocrinology

3. *(a)* Gerontology *(b)* Philology *(c)* Topology *(d)* Oncology

4. *(a)* Epigraphy *(b)* Craniology *(c)* Pharmacology *(d)* Odontology

(2)

There are now almost seven square feet of self-storage for every American. Paying more to store something than it is worth may seem doubly irrational. But it enables people to ———**5**——- caveman clutter with modern minimalism, and allows companies to benefit from a huge business opportunity that includes inflatable salad bars, over-door baseball cap organisers and motion-activated paper-towel dispensers. Since the urge to ———**6**——— stuff is ————**7**————, so is the scope for selling people stuff to keep it in.

5. (*a*) reconcile (*b*) compare (*c*) segregate (*d*) simulate

6. (*a*) dispense (*b*) eliminate (*c*) accumulate (*d*) consume

7. (*a*) limited (*b*) constrained (*c*) restrained (*d*) limitless

(3)

A sharp- eyed coyote, dollars sprouting from his ears,———**8**——— at the roadside. Beside him a muscle.bound American border agent, clad in green and with pistol drawn, looms over a ———**9**——— migrant. Nearby a man-sized dollar sign flits away on silver wings. That graffito on a concrete border wall in Nogales, on the Mexican side of the frontier with the United States, tells a simple story: the business of migration in this part of the world is both ————**10**———— and increasingly dangerous.

8. (*a*) glowers (*b*) showers (*c*) howls (*d*) scares

9. (*a*) dancing (*b*) crying (*c*) cowering (*d*) prying

10. (*a*) tempting (*b*) attractive (*c*) tenebrous (*d*) lucrative

(4)

The microfinance market in India is expected to grow rapidly, supported by Government of India's ———**11**——— to achieve greater financial inclusion, and growth in the

country's retail sector. MFI's have a ———**12**———— level reach and understanding of the ———**13**———— needs of the poor. The growing retail market in India provides opportunities for MFI's to act as ———**14**———— in the retail supply chain. The banking sector will also help microfinance sector grow _ banks are expected to use MFI's to meet their financial inclusion targets by allowing MFI's to open bank accounts, and distribute financial services and other ———**15**———— products.

11.*(a)* areas *(b)* initiatives *(c)* will *(d)* enthusiasm

12. *(a)* upper *(b)* narrow *(c)* grass-root *(d)* higher

13. *(a)* political *(b)* social *(c)* technological *(d)* economic

14.*(a)* intermediaries *(b)* link *(c)* retailers *(d)* Managers

15. *(a)* inevitable *(b)* structured *(c)* accessible *(d)* feckless

Test 17

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: In each of the following questions, a related pair of words or phrases is followed by four pairs of words or phrases, select the pair that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed in the original pair.

1. Amiable : Friendly

(*a*) Acute : obtuse (*b*) smile : cry (*c*) accede : agress (*d*) passion : zeal

2. Animus : Malevolence

(*a*) arbiter : victim (*b*) neigh : horse

(*c*) filly : colt (*d*) banal : trivial

3. Tachometer : Speed

(*a*) udometer : sun (*b*) salinometer : blood pressure

(*c*) tacheometer : elevations (*d*) pyrometer : rain

4. Dolphin : Click

(*a*) turkey : gobble (*b*) wolf: oink

(*c*) hyena: roar (*d*) eagle: chant

5. Climacophobia: Stairs

(*a*) hell: thanatophobia (*b*) death: stygiophobia

(*c*) doctors : latrophobia (*d*) disease : acrophobia

6. Megalomaniac : having delusions of grandeur

(*a*) ecdemomaniac : having abnormal craving for alcohol

(*b*) drapetomaniac : having obsession with owning of furs

(*c*) agromaniac : having abnormal fondness for ballets

(*d*) hieromaniac : having pathological religious visions or delusions

7. Ichthyology : Fish

(*a*) kalology : beauty (*b*) kinematics : stationary

(*c*) oikology : eye diseases (*d*) pyroballogy : nose

8. Conchiform : Shell

(*a*) clavate: gun (*b*) fucoid : seaweed

(*c*) lobular : light (*d*) oodial : banana

9. Bolar : Clay

(*a*) brumal : summer (*b*) butyric : chocolate

(*c*) gestic : black magic (*d*) loimic : plagues

10. Habanera : Ziganka

(*a*) hypnology : sleep (*b*) abba : biretta

(*c*) angora : goats (*d*) allemande : cakewalk

11. Acme : Nadir

(*a*) parsimonious: frugal (*b*) tirade : philippic

(*c*) levity: frivolity (*d*) luculent : esoteric

12. Chagrin : Delight

(*a*) halcyon : tranquil (*b*) pugnacious : bellicose

(*c*) heterodox : orthodox (*d*) lascivious : salacious

13. Abattoir: Butcher

(*a*) synagogue : rabbi (*b*) frigate : pugilist

(*c*) church : pagan (*d*) rink : sailor

14. Brocken : Stag

(*a*) ipiti : bear (*b*) emmet : elephant

(*c*) palfrey : lion (*d*) culex : mosquito

15. Cog : Ship

(*a*) ama: pilot (*b*) alb : train (*c*) dit : tank (*d*) hoy : boat

Test 18

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: In each of the following questions, a related pair of words or phrases is followed by four pairs of words or phrases. Select the pair that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed in the original pair.

1. aberrant : normal

(*a*) condone : gaffe

(*b*) moratorium : encomium

(*c*) penitent : recalcitrant

(*d*) anthropoid : manlike

2. jingoist : chauvinism

(*a*) pianist : fortune

(*b*) lackey : deference

(*c*) tiara : glitter

(*d*) maverick : demented

3. acclimatize : alienate

(*a*) enthuse : misuse

(*b*) introduce : harrowing

(*c*) approve : dismiss

(*d*) orient : discord

4. orient : occident

(*a*) repentance : penury

(*b*) charge : condone

(*c*) verbose : laconic

(*d*) fastidious : gorge

5. caveat : warning

(*a*) primitive : signal

(*b*) repartee : reply

(*c*) tirade : blemish

(*d*) cravat : dignity

6. theocracy : priest

(*a*) bureaucracy : charity

(*b*) autocracy : mascot

(*c*) puppet : prune

(*d*) plutocracy : wealthy

7. diadem : crown

(*a*) spike : witch

(*b*) skewer : point

(*c*) bivouac : camp

(*d*) revolution : gyrate

8. amnesia : memory

(*a*) anarchy : government

(*b*) monarch : dynasty

(*c*) paranoia : turpitude

(*d*) judgment : unsound

9. husbandry : farming

(*a*) extractive : manufacturing

(*b*) industry : commerce

(*c*) theology : philology

(*d*) epistemology : knowledge

10. halcyon : chaos

(*a*) halo : God

(*b*) turbulence : rivulet

(*c*) Hades : Pluto

(*d*) hermetic : air

11. poltroon : coward

(*a*) buffoon : gesture

(*b*) tycoon : corrupt

(*c*) philanderer : flirt

(*d*) magnate : politician

12. inured : dolorous

(*a*) enamored : passionate

(*b*) dialectic : pacific

(*c*) fired : imagination

(*d*) incarcerated : fettered

13. sobriquet : nickname

(*a*) gelding : stray

(*b*) galleon : ship

(*c*) cadaver : satire

(*d*) lampoon : tame

14. uxorious : wife

(*a*) chivalrous : idealist

(*b*) quixotic : cavalry

(*c*) perfidious : treachery

(*d*) chauvinist : country

15. hedonist : pleasure

(*a*) artist : leisure

(*b*) Sybarite : luxury

(*c*) pugilist : peace

(*d*) dulcet : alloyed

Test 19

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: In each of the following questions, a related pair of words or phrases is followed by four pairs of words or phrases. Select the pair that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed in the original pair.

1. concise : elliptical

(*a*) precise : figurative

(*b*) dilatory : expedient

(*c*) paragon : five

(*d*) helical : gear

2. patricide : father

(*a*) matricide : sister

(*b*) sorority : mother

(*c*) regicide : king

(*d*) fraternity : clan

3. ligneous : wood

(*a*) sidereal : stars

(*b*) humorous : sober

(*c*) libidinous : spinster

(*d*) porous : border

4. nepotism : merit

(*a*) genome : heredity

(*b*) chromosomes : gender

(*c*) bohemian : mores

(*d*) totalitarian : demography

5. raiment : apparel

(*a*) jaunt : pleasure

(*b*) parsimony : stingy

(*c*) despot : temerity

(*d*) maverick : rebel

6. schism : division

(*a*) iconoclast : attack

(*b*) harlequin : anguish

(*c*) hostility : intension

(*d*) catharsis : purgation

7. equanimity : sangfroid

(*a*) orient : occident

(*b*) sylvan : forest

(*c*) apostate : religion

(*d*) conundrum : riddle

8. skinflint : parsimony

(*a*) delinquent : repentance

(*b*) fugitive : temerity

(*c*) despot : authority

(*d*) insurgent : coup

9. crawl : proceed

(*a*) plummet : descend

(*b*) nurture : grow

(*c*) inundate : flood

(*d*) dwindle : decrease

10. elegy : sorrow

(*a*) paean : distress

(*b*) encomium : criticism

(*c*) requiem : euphoria

(*d*) eulogy : admiration

11. frieze : ornament

(*a*) arch : divide

(*b*) relief : form

(*c*) arabesque : accentuate

(*d*) pillar : support

12. despotic : tyranny

(*a*) authoritarian : superiority

(*b*) skillful : celebrity

(*c*) generous : liberality

(*d*) suspect : illegality

13. ferret : search

(*a*) unfathomable : incomprehensible

(*b*) work : experience

(*c*) baneful : vagary

(*d*) abjure : beg

14. illegible : readable

(*a*) excoriate : extol

(*b*) apothecary : druggist

(*c*) vertigo : dizziness

(*d*) wallop : beat

15. air : aerophobia

(*a*) genophobia : animals

(*b*) toxicophobia : snakes

(*c*) ochlophobia : crowd

(*d*) peniophobia : small things

Test 20

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: The given words in the pair have a particular relationship. Select the pair from the given options which has a similar relationship.

1. FEAR : COWER : :

(*a*) calmness : fret (*b*) anger : rant

(*c*) disappointment : console (*d*) gladness : satisfy

2. BACTERIA : DECOMPOSITION : :

(*a*) lava : eruption (*b*) penicillin : injection

(*c*) yeast : fermentation (*d*) oxygen : respiration

3. SLAKE : THIRST : :

(*a*) perspire : exertion (*b*) moan : voice

(*c*) shiver : muscle (*d*) satiate: hunger

4. FOIBLE : FAULT : :

(*a*) perjury : testimony (*b*) reputation : disrepute

(*c*) vagary : notion (*d*) quibble : objection

5. IMPORTUNE : REQUEST : :

(*a*) pry : inquiry (*b*) balk : obstacle

(*c*) fulminate : silence (*d*) discountenance : plea

6. DAGUERREOTYPE : PHOTOGRAPH : :

(*a*) bust : statue (*b*) pastiche : painting

(*c*) narrative : novel (*d*) hieroglyphic : papyrus

7. INDISTINGUISHABLE : CONFOUND ::

(*a*) exceptional : overlook (*b*) impregnable : attack

(*c*) ostentatious : consume (*d*) equivalent : interchange

8. DENTURE: TEETH: :

(*a*) scarf : head (*b*) toupee : hair

(*c*) fingernail : hand (*d*) eyebrow : eye

9. PROFESSIONAL : ROOKIE : :

(*a*) player : fan (*b*) ranger : cowhand

(*c*) prisoner : thief (*d*) soldier : recruit

10. BUOYANT : SINK : :

(*a*) frozen : melt (*b*) liquid : evaporate

(*c*) brittle : cleave (*d*) insoluble : dissolve

11. Atheism : God

(*a*) Nihilism : Rejection (*b*) Communism : Community

(*c*) Puritanism : Austerity (*d*) Pacifism : War

12. Sensitive : Hurt

(*a*) Pliant : Yield (*b*) Onerous : Struggle

(*c*) Ethereal : Illusory (*d*) Transparent : Translucent

13. Centripetal : Centrifugal

(*a*) Clear : Definite (*b*) Attractive : Offensive

(*c*) Assertive : Emphatic (*d*) Delineated: Demarcated

14. Portrait : Caricature

(*a*) Satire : Lampoon (*b*) Parody: Literature

(*c*) Dramatise : Spoof (*d*) Justice : Travesty

15. carapace : crustacean

(*a*) efface : frustration (*b*) perusal : concentration

(*c*) preface : cursory (*d*) actuarial : statistics

Test 21

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: The **highlighted** words in the pair have a particular relationship. Select the pair from the given options which has a similar relationship.

1.beret : cap

(*a*) moccassin : tie (*b*) cardigan : thimble

(*c*) cravat : suede (*d*) clogs : shoes

2. schnauzer : dog

(*a*) balinese : frog (*b*) puffin : bear

(*c*) ladybug : bird (*d*) sidewinder : snake

3. tweezers : manicurist

(*a*) scalpel : mason (*b*) awl : barber

(*c*) mallet : writers (*d*) mandrels: jewellers

4. apologue : fable

(*a*) canso : connotation (*b*) kabuki: novel

(*c*) monody : poem (*d*) simile : pun

5. amortization : finance

(*a*) manicheanism : physics (*b*) cyclotron : theology

(*c*) utilitarianism : astronomy (*d*) doggerel : literature

6. sacrilegious: impious

(*a*) ruddy : pallor (*b*) prodigal : scholar

(*c*) parley : pauper (*d*) nubile : voluptuous

7. weariless: indefatigable

(*a*) traveller : dolorous (*b*) dull: jaunty

(*c*) honest : knave (*d*) judicious : sagacious

8. disperse : congregate

(*a*) sophistory : philosopher (*b*) spectator : perspicacious

(*c*) provoke : demagogue (*d*) pacific: turbulence

9. obdurate : obsequious

(*a*) neologism : atavism (*b*) neophyte : neonate

(*c*) cognomen : udonym (*d*) loquacious: taciturn

10. ornithology : birds

(*a*) cosmology : fashion (*b*) optics : universe

(*c*) organics : chemistry (*d*) acoustics : sound

11. conscientious : meticulous

(a) fear : intrepid *(b)* disperse : disburse

(c) rookie : tyro *(d)* meretricious : valuable

12. solecism : grammar

(a) idiosyncrasy : manners *(b)* uncanny : rude

(c) extirpate : illegal *(d)* expurgate : credible

13. ferret : search

(a) fetter : shackles *(b)* fritter : economical

(c) ferule : ring *(d)* obedient : recalcitrant

14. depreciation : asset

(a) devaluation : currency *(b)* debt : equity

(c) increase : exports *(d)* demagogue : teacher

Test 22

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each sentence below has one or two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are four words or set of words. Choose the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. It was as though the fact that neither of them had anything in common with the other nationality, upbringing, way of life, beliefs - made them therefore ready to accept each other without the usual barriers of _____or conventionality.

(*a*) reticence (*b*) speech (*c*) diplomacy (*d*) race

2. It had been a happy childhood, a normal boy's childhood. Not luxurious, indeed _____ in many ways.

(*a*) basking (*b*) magnificent (*c*) splendid (*d*) spartan

3. Behind the normal _____ of daily life had been a dread of something that he himself did not understand.

(*a*) façade (*b*) face (*c*) schedule (*d*) routine

4. She was not wearing the Spanish shawl, or the high-necked black dress. She had on something _____ and floating in pale mauve.

(*a*) heavy (*b*) ponderous (*c*) turbid (*d*) diaphanous

5. This was a different man altogether. A younger man, _____, eager, unsure of himself, desperately anxious to please.

(*a*) mature (*b*) experienced (*c*) callow (*d*) confident

6. I asked a question carelessly enough of one of the locals, who was clipping a hedge in a _____ fashion nearby.

(*a*) desultory (*b*) result (*c*) commendable (*d*) peripatetic

7. She came and _____ me out and gave me her commands.

(*a*) ferreted (*b*) chalked (*c*) talked (*d*) stalked

8. The doctor had said plainly and without _____ what the malady was.

(*a*) tact (*b*) subterfuge (*c*) directness (*d*) frankness

9. The island had none of the _____ of the tropics.

(*a*) exotic language (*b*) exotic languor

(*c*) erotic languor (*d*) emotive languor

10. He was not by nature a _____ or an ascetic.

(*a*) socialite (*b*) recluse (*c*) gourmet (*d*) charmer

11. The table at which she was sitting was half _____ by a great hanging mass of coral-colored bougainvillea.

(*a*) obliterated (*b*) covered (*c*) revealed (*d*) shown

12. I don't _____ and grieve over the past.

(*a*) hanker (*b*) worship (*c*) forget (*d*) oblige

13. "Rahul's _____ was irritating. He was reluctant even to buy bread!"

(*a*) jealousy (*b*) soreness (*c*) luck (*d*) parsimony

14. The _____ steps confirmed he was hiding from someone.

(*a*) furtive (*b*) wild (*c*) puzzled (*d*) gleaming

15. The _____ moon was shiny that night.

(*a*) whining (*b*) waxing (*c*) willing (*d*) wavering

Test 23

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Fill in the blanks using the most appropriate choices from the given options.

1. Congress is finally moving to ban one of the Bush administration's most _____evasions of accountability in Iraq - the outsourcing of war detainees' interrogation to mercenary private contractors.

(*a*) obvious (*b*) blatant (*c*) obscure (*d*) apparent

2. These _____ continue to undermine the United States in the eyes of both citizens of war zones and the watching world.

(*a*) depredations (*b*) adulations (*c*) coalitions (*d*) blandishments

3. Now that the shock of the earthquake, which they could not control, in Sichuan province has _____ somewhat, China's leaders are focusing again on something that they think they can control: people.

(*a*) evaporated (*b*) aggravated (*c*) dissipated (*d*) decreased

4. For Teurk, and a group of antiwar activists he had linked up with, painting the bridge was a political statement, an affirmation of creative power over _____.

(*a*) destruction (*b*) vandalism (*c*) atavism (*d*) war-mongers

5. Their work was often aimed at turning _____ urban spaces into people-friendly, colorful places.

(*a*) frayed (*b*) fragmented (*c*) congested (*d*) decayed

6. But even beyond the _____ of weather, the open-air setting presented problems.

(*a*) vagaries (*b*) denouement (*c*) inclement (*d*) deviations

7. Sowing ___ seeds of happiness along his way, he continued his travels for peace in this new realm of America.

(*a*) innumerable (*b*) definite (*c*) finite (*d*) fickle

8. With a few words of encouragement, it is possible to help someone open his or her life to a ___ extent.

(*a*) capricious (*b*) erratic (*c*) impulsive (*d*) profound

9. His entire attitude was refreshingly different from the ___ behaviour displayed by many leaders in society.

(*a*) philanthropic (*b*) authoritarian (*c*) magnetic (*d*) magnanimous

10. A new arena ___ before them.

(*a*) unfolded (*b*) pitched (*c*) canted (*d*) tilted

11. Beyond the silver waves lay a vast world poised in anticipation of an era of ___ progress, an era of unlimited possibilities.

(*a*) tardy (*b*) belated (*c*) dynamic (*d*) unexpected

12. Though she had grieved for Charles's death, grief had been _____ by a tremulous longing and expectation.

(*a*) extracted (*b*) expelled (*c*) eclipsed (*d*) expected

13. He declined to behave in a social manner, and _____ Bellbury by refusing, usually impolitely, their many invitations.

(*a*) pleased (*b*) delighted (*c*) strained (*d*) affronted

14. Charles, grinding his teeth and snorting with venom, was penning a really _____ review for a learned journal of a fellow historian's life work.

(*a*) vitriolic (*b*) polite (*c*) prudent (*d*) just

15. Mrs. Rouse gave a _____ knock on the door and pushed it open.

(*a*) mandatory (*b*) persistent (*c*) imprecise (*d*) perfunctory

Test 24

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Fill in the blanks using the most appropriate choices from the given options.

1. Its purpose was to serve as a ___ centre to coordinate and facilitate communication among the growing number of members who lived overseas.

(*a*) liaison (*b*) illicit (*c*) egible (*d*) channel

2. Just then, they heard a ___ of footsteps.

(*a*) abrasion (*b*) scar (*c*) flurry (*d*) deck

3. Actually, the mistake had been caused by a simple ___ error on the part of the travel agency that had arranged the trip.

(*a*) iniquitous (*b*) tangible (*c*) spurious (*d*) typographical

4. "Amuumuu?" echoed Katrina with a ___ look.

(*a*) obtuse (*b*) dubious (*c*) renowned (*d*) dire

5. It would be like the war-time American National Defence Women's Association, which demanded rigid ___ from its members.

(*a*) martyr (*b*) catastrophe (*c*) manipulation (*d*) conformity

6. Already painted ___ in his heart was a grand and elaborate vision of the future of global peace and happiness.

(*a*) vague (*b*) grandiose (*c*) vividly (*d*) jeremiad

7. Practically all the members of the group were of Indian origin, and they ___ the distinctly Indian flavour.

(*a*) nostalgically savoured (*b*) tragically hated

(*c*) hungrily devoured (*d*) selfishly grabbed

8. So ___ was this feeling that some in the military took the uncompromising ___ that all persons of Sri Lankan ancestry should be interned.

(*a*) strong, idiom (*b*) pervasive, stance

(*c*) weedy, resolution (*d*) uprising, resolve

9. If people's awareness of their true mission turns into determination, enabling them to work with ____, then they will indeed grow as human beings.

(*a*) slow pace (*b*) renewed vigour

(*c*) no energy (*d*) extremely egoistically

10. Her good-natured ____ gradually relaxed the tension that seemed to ____ the room.

(*a*) ribbing, permeate (*b*) beating, terrify

(*c*) banging, droop (*d*) behaviour, bully

11. With its maverick approach to the subject, Shere Hite's book has been more widely debated than most. The Media throughout the country have brought the author's _____ opinions to the public's attention

(*a*) controversial (*b*) authoritative (*c*) popular (*d*) conclusive

12. As serious as she is about the bullfight, she does not allow respect to _____ her sense of whimsy when painting it.

(*a*) inspire (*b*) provoke (*c*) suppress (*d*) attack

13. Although their initial anger had _____ somewhat, they continued to _____ the careless worker who had broken the machine.

(*a*) blazed, assail (*b*) diminished, appease

(*c*) abated, berate (*d*) subsided, condone

14. Many artists believe that successful imitation, far from being symptomatic of a lack of _____ , is the first step in learning to be creative.

(*a*) elegance (*b*) resolution (*c*) goodness (*d*) originality

15. Jewish myth and legend comprises a vast body of stories _____ over the past 3,000 years.

(*a*) sent (*b*) imbibed (*c*) expunged (*d*) transmitted

Test 25

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Fill in the blanks using the most appropriate option from the given options.

1. It can be _____ by either party after a "change in control," like an acquisition, so it would not necessarily deter Microsoft from bidding again.

(*a*) advocated (*b*) admitted (*c*) rescinded (*d*) agreed upon

2. It will also focus on the conservation of works of art, illustrating the theme of _____ by exhibiting "Aerei," a 2004 installation by the Italian artist Fabio Viale, consisting of 90 miniature aircraft wings carved in marble, translucently thin and affixed to a mirror, creating the impression of a flock of origami planes.

(*a*) robustness (*b*) vigour (*c*) vitality (*d*) fragility

3. However, senior officials say they wish to avoid a disproportionate response which could lead to an _____of the ceasefire.

(*a*) unravelling (*b*) unleashing (*c*) aggravating (*d*) ratcheting

4. A less intrepid novelist might have hesitated before depicting a *sati*, particularly one that seems slightly surplus to plot requirements, but it is made _____ within the larger narrative context.

(*a*) agreeable (*b*) feasible (*c*) plausible (*d*) probable

5. Overall, the report is a _____ guide to policies for accelerating economic growth in developing countries.

(*a*) anticipatory (*b*) punitive (*c*) sagacious (*d*) pragmatic

6. There is also something _____ British about the defence of personal liberties, given the amount of blood spilt over the centuries to obtain and preserve them.

(*a*) quintessentially (*b*) essentially (*c*) affably (*d*) amazingly

7. The International Herald Tribune reported his remarks with an undisguised tongue in its cheek: "Des Browne went so far as to call the Afghan campaign `the noble cause of the **21**st century' - an echo, perhaps, of the colonial _____ that suffused British exploits in the region almost two centuries ago."

(*a*) dominance (*b*) supremacy

(*c*) white man's burden (*d*) hubris

8. Oh, and upholding our part of the NATO commitment, which (so far as I can see) means giving that nattily dressed Afghan president a reason to keep _____ more billions from the world's pockets for reconstruction.

(*a*) conjuring (*b*) begging (*c*) beseeching (*d*) summoning

9. He should remember, as Charlie Kennedy _____ remembers, that every Briton, like it or not, is now "a citizen of the European Union" and Europe ain't America by a long way.

(*a*) thoroughly (*b*) apparently (*c*) obviously (*d*) punctiliously

10. Quite a bit has been paid out to bankers in bonuses, on the back of artificially inflated profits. No pain, no gain? Our pain, their gain, more like. In a play, they would get their _____ in the third act. But this is real life, so they won't.

(*a*) comeuppance (*b*) award (*c*) panacea (*d*) vengeance

11. Somebody must have sent him this cutting sometime, probably with no _____ intention.

(*a*) nefarious (*b*) furious (*c*) causal (*d*) minute

(*a*) dominance (*b*) supremacy

(*c*) white man's burden (*d*) hubris

8. Oh, and upholding our part of the NATO commitment, which (so far as I can see) means giving that nattily dressed Afghan president a reason to keep _____ more billions from the world's pockets for reconstruction.

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9. He should remember, as Charlie Kennedy _____ remembers, that every Briton, like it or not, is now "a citizen of the European Union" and Europe ain't America by a long way.

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10. Quite a bit has been paid out to bankers in bonuses, on the back of artificially inflated profits. No pain, no gain? Our pain, their gain, more like. In a play, they would get their _____ in the third act. But this is real life, so they won't.

(*a*) comeuppance (*b*) award (*c*) panacea (*d*) vengeance

11. Somebody must have sent him this cutting sometime, probably with no _____ intention.

(*a*) nefarious (*b*) furious (*c*) causal (*d*) minute

12. She drove aimlessly around town in the dark, unaware that she was _____ on the edge of consciousness.

(*a*) sitting (*b*) teetering (*c*) kneeling (*d*) looking

13. He did his duty by church, town and clients with unfailing _____.

(*a*) rectitude (*b*) carelessness (*c*) errors (*d*) hurdles

14. There's something slightly peculiar about the_____ of tradition and protocol with the modern dress-down, **21**st century world.

(*a*) juxtaposition (*b*) position (*c*) trace (*d*) feasting

15. In the Trojan War, Hera and Athena were _____ enemies of Troy while Aphrodite was loyal to Paris and the Trojans.

(*a*) merciful (*b*) grim (*c*) cynical (*d*) incongruent

Test 26

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Fill up the given blanks with the appropriate pair of options.

1. He did, and the ball _____ and bobbled in, sending Woods into a _____ dance born of relief as much as exuberance.

(*a*) wobbled, celebratory (*b*) cobbled, break

(*c*) dabbled, imaginative (*d*) dangled, congratulatory

2. Once, and once only, have I known him to depart from his philosophical _____, and that one departure was, I think, justified by the situation, since it was the _____ point of a series of aggravations, to fail to yield to which would have required a more than human strength.

(*a*) attitude, vantage (*b*) demeanor, culminating

(*c*) stranglehold, crucial (*d*) thinking, sore

3. I fancy it will not take us long to establish our initial point, which is that the gross person who has so foully _____ your property to his own base uses does not _____ removing it from its keel and placing it somewhere inland.

(*a*) aggrandized, conspire (*b*) amortized, reconsider

(*c*) appropriated, contemplate (*d*) devalued, anticipate

4. Imagine my surprise; however, when his eye brightened as I spoke, and he entered my room with such _____that half the powder which he thought _____ his beard was shaken off on to the floor.

(*a*) alacrity, disguised (*b*) firmness, adorned

(*c*) defiance, sprinkled (*d*) tenacity, decorated

5. At Anthraper Gardens, you can _____ in complete and absolute serenity, the energy and hospitality of the souls there, and if that is not enough, revel in stories and history that not only _____ you, but leaves one searching for more.

(*a*) bask, enthralls (*b*) rejuvenate, mellows

(*c*) sleep, soothes (*d*) relax, emulates

6. The very next fall a tulip _____ from the same soil, testifying that natural growth has but a few _____.

(*a*) appeared, reasons (*b*) sprouted, impediments

(*c*) recovered, obstacles (*d*) emancipated, attributes

7. Judiciary is certainly one among the three branches of governance _____ by the Constitution, but this should not be _____ as conferring the freedom to intermingle at one's discretion.

(*a*) promulgated, taken (*b*) appointed, meant

(*c*) defined, adapted (*d*) envisaged, construed

8. Competitors quickly tried to _____ another _____ of iPhone hype.

(*a*) evaporate, impetus (*b*) eliminate, round

(*c*) develop, excuse (*d*) douse, conflagration

9. He is nothing if not _____; nobody survives five-and-a-half years as a prisoner-of-war in Vietnam without a _____ will.

(*a*) whimsical, iron (*b*) confident, weak

(*c*) stubborn, steely (*d*) minnow, strong

10. It was tempted out of its cosy _____ only by the _____ market.

(*a*) domesticity, galloping (*b*) existence, enormous

(*c*) environs, affiliate (*d*) situation, lucrative

11. _____ in its early Georgian beauty, the house had a slightly _____ effect, due, so she understood, to a fire which had consumed one wing of it, which had never been rebuilt.

(*a*) Mellow, balanced (*b*) Mellow, two-sided

(*c*) Mellow, lop-sided (*d*) Ugly, lop-sided

12. Henry's manner was just right, it had that touch of _____ that was _____.

(*a*) diffidence, a warning (*b*) diffidence, warming

(*c*) deference, disarming (*d*) diffidence, disarming

13. She was experiencing the sharp sense of shock which comes when you discover an unknown _____ in someone about whom you are _____ you know everything.

(*a*) face, assured (*b*) facet, reassured

(*c*) facet, assured (*d*) facet, tonsured

14. The woman's face, though _____, was not haggard or _____.

(*a*) bright, emaciated (*b*) beautiful, emaciated

(*c*) worn, strong (*d*) worn, emaciated

15. She was sitting here, staring into _____ distance, and somewhere on her easy, _____ happy path through life she had got lost.

(*a*) fathomable, assured (*b*) fathomable, tedious

(*c*) unfathomable, assured (*d*) farther, assured

Test 27

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Fill up the given blanks with the appropriate pair of options.

1. He is not unmindful of the importance of his public services and their recognition, yet his accounts of these achievements are given only as a part of the story, and the _____ displayed is _____ and in keeping with the honesty of the recital.

(*a*) ignorance, accidental (*b*) vanity, incidental

(*c*) honesty, mental (*d*) integrity, upfront

2. The Directors saw the point, and next offered him—and this time he accepted—the free use of the residence of one of the officers of the company, a really handsome, _____ structure, with a commanding view, stable, green-houses, graceful lawns, and all other _____ of a well-appointed country seat.

(*a*) down to earth, equipment (*b*) broad, nuances

(*c*) pretentious, appurtenances (*d*) brick, affiliations

3. Built on the delta of the Otagawa river, the city is poised in a _____among the hills, as the river _____ to merge with the sea.

(*a*) basin, trickles (*b*) valley, coagulates

(*c*) tree, rushes (*d*) cliff, gushes

4. On wobbly foundations under _____ times, these revival and restoration artists opened new doorways and windows of thought processes and _____ with a bias for action.

(*a*) disquieting, executed (*b*) heartening, vanished

(*c*) terrific, uplifted (*d*) exacting, restored

5. The peninsula's shallow lagoons and _____ wind draw adventurous Europeans, but accounts of migrants in Mauritania reveal a more _____dimension to these conditions.

(*a*) balmy, dynamic (*b*) strong, terrible

(*c*) devilish, interesting (*d*) incessant, sinister

6. Knees and knuckles scraping the ground, the visitors struggle to keep up with the tour guide who is briskly leading the way through the _____ of _____ burrows dug into the hard earth.

(*a*) labyrinth, claustrophobic (*b*) tunnel, deep

(*c*) maze, romantic (*d*) web, eclectic

7. "That one", he says, waving at a _____ of corrugated-iron sheds and _____ chimneys, "is owned by a man from Shanghai."

(*a*) dump, fiery (*b*) sheet, hot

(*c*) clump, belching (*d*) accumulation, tall

8. Ugly, ever-expanding Israeli settlements sprawl on the West Bank's hilltops; great roads _____ their way through its undulating, terraced hills; wildernesses have become national parks that are barred to Palestinians; and Arab villages that once blended organically into the landscape are little more than _____ ghettos.

(*a*) find, surrounded (*b*) splice, besieged

(*c*) strike, stinking (*d*) shackle, congested

9. He shows that his _____ from his colleagues at Princeton was no _____ but a natural evolution from his early studies in Chicago and graduate work at Yale.

(*a*) distance, laissez-faire (*b*) estrangement, volte-face

(*c*) discord, sui-generis (*d*) disillusionment, quid pro quo

10. He is perpetually _____ by what, to his Western ears, sound like contradictory attitudes: the Russians he meets are sophisticated, acquisitive and yet _____ to the point of hostility towards democracy.

(*a*) badgered, irritable (*b*) confounded, amiable

(*c*) baffled, cynical (*d*) irritated, suave

11. There has been much wailing and _____of teeth lately, especially in America, about the harm globalisation causes to workers, who are increasingly worried that their hard.learned skills will become _____as their jobs are shipped overseas.

(*a*) flashing, popular (*b*) flossing, rare

(*c*) brushing, redundant (*d*) gnashing, obsolete

12. This has allowed India's most successful companies to prosper despite the _____ labour regulations which protect a minority of job holders at the expense of _____ of job seekers.

(*a*) excellent, scores (*b*) tedious, patrons

(*c*) onerous, legions (*d*) weary, microcosm

13. At least Mr. Cowen escaped without being forced to promise to hold a second vote on the treaty, with or without _____ declaring that it does not affect Irish laws on abortion, neutrality and other _____.

(*a*) cudgels, ideas (*b*) protocols, shibboleths

(*c*) escapades, views (*d*) announcements, stigmas

14. In a world of nice rules and regulations, rewards and punishments _____ out by Almighty God, strictly according to merit, George was _____ out.

(*a*) doled, mingled (*b*) doled, singled

(*c*) doled, cringed (*d*) sold, singled

15. Philanthropy no more _____ the good businessman than it _____ the bad.

(*a*) amerces, degrades (*b*) alleviates, vindicates

(*c*) ameliorates, denigrates (*d*) canonizes, exculpates

Test 28

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Fill up the given blanks with the appropriate pair of options.

1. Here, in some of the best soil in the world, the _____ stalks of Dave Timmerman's newly planted corn are wilting in what sometimes look more like rice paddies than the plains, the sunshine _____ off of pools of collected water.

(*a*) emaciated, swerving (*b*) stunted, glinting

(*c*) tenuous, slinking (*d*) tender, shying

2. Reflecting an _____Broadway season, the **62**nd Annual Tony Awards crowned a salsa-flavored musical written by a theater novice, a _____ glamorous revival, a sweeping melodrama from a writer making his Broadway debut, and the revival of a '60s sex farce.

(*a*) assorted, sickly (*b*) eventful, retributive

(*c*) intuitive, sensuous (*d*) eclectic, nostalgic

3. In the Idiot's eye there was a cold glitter of _____—a glitter that boded ill for the man who should challenge him to controversial combat—and there seemed also to be, judging from _____ winks passed over the table and kicks passed under it, an understanding to which he and the genial gentleman who occasionally imbibed were parties.

(*a*) warmth, casual (*b*) derision, sleepy

(*c*) disdain, tedious (*d*) expectancy, sundry

4. It was indeed _____ moving, to hear an aged Hibakusha speak with _____murmur of the explosion that had appeared like a thousand Suns, of witnessing continuous and sudden deaths, of peers and family, of pain.

(*a*) interestingly, inaudible (*b*) poignantly, tremulous

(*c*) perilously, incomprehensible (*d*) pathetically, decipherable

5. Readers who have been _____ by his wanderings, who have trembled with him on the ledges of rocky canyons (Mr Shehadeh suffers from vertigo), may find themselves echoing his _____ for a lovely homeland now in the process of disappearing.

(*a*) entranced, lament (*b*) fed up, romance

(*c*) mesmerized, trauma (*d*) put off, longing

6. There are also some rather strange _____ on world history, including a recurring _____ between the machinegun and the atom bomb that does not quite work.

(*a*) rumblings, theme (*b*) premonitions, duel

(*c*) meanderings, analogy (*d*) questions, similarity

7. Here was a star of the _____"analytical" movement in philosophy who, it seemed, suddenly turned on his colleagues and became an eclectic _____.

(*a*) comprehensive, demi-God (*b*) expansive, vagrant

(*c*) bohemian, vagabond (*d*) dominant, iconoclast

8. His novice's eye sees the moral outrage in everyday injustices—the use of malnourished teenaged _____ as slave labour, say, or the routine persecution of migrant labourers—to which more practised Russia-watchers are too often _____.

(*a*) brats, sensitised (*b*) youngsters, neutral

(*c*) conscripts, desensitised (*d*) mercenaries, attracted

9. Here, he paints a _____ picture of the heat and dust of colonial India: a mud-walled village hut floating like a tiny raft "upon a river of poppies"; airy merchants' mansions full of *punkah-wallahs* and protocol; the calls of boatmen floating across the silt- and salt-flavoured Hooghly river; and, in the midst of it all, the British-owned Sudder Opium Factory with its dead-eyed labourers slaving "as slow as ants in honey" in air as _____ as that of a "closed kitchen".

(*a*) gruesome, fragrant (*b*) clear, suffocating

(*c*) bleak, humid (*d*) lustrous, fetid

10. One was that _____, hitherto available only to the very rich or _____ through magazines and newspapers, should be sold worldwide in ready-to-wear shops at a fraction of the posh price.

(*a*) haute couture, vicariously (*b*) suo motu, instinctively

(*c*) au re- voir, generally (*d*) au fait, coincidentally

11. It was a war the queen and her more prudent counselors wished to _____ if they could and were determined in any event to _____ as long as possible.

(*a*) provoke, delay (*b*) denounce, deny

(*c*) instigate, conceal (*d*) avoid, postpone

12. Despite many decades of research on the gasification of coal, the data accumulated is not directly _____ to environmental questions; thus a new program of research which specifically deals with such questions is _____.

(*a*) analogous, promising (*b*) transferable, contradictory

(*c*) antithetical, unremarkable (*d*) applicable, warranted

13. Edith Wharton sought in her memoir to present herself as having achieved a harmonious wholeness by having _____ the conflicting elements of her life.

(*a*) affirmed (*b*) highlighted (*c*) reconciled (*d*) confined

14. No one is _____ is about Stephens; he inspires either uncritical adulation or profound _____ in those who work for him.

(*a*) neutral, antipathy (*b*) infuriated, aversion

(*c*) worried, anxiety (*d*) apprehensive, consternation

15. The labor union and the company's management, despite their long history of unfailingly acerbic disagreement on nearly every issue, have nevertheless reached an unexpectedly ———, albeit still tentative agreement on next year's contract.

(*a*) swift (*b*) onerous (*c*) hesitant (*d*) reluctant

Test 29

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each sentence below has one or two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are four words or set of words. Choose the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. She is _____ as a renowned and distinguished author of _____ tales.

(*a*) unequaled ... ingenious (*b*) unequaled ... ingenuous

(*c*) equaled ... ingenious (*d*) determined ... ingenious

2. A dog has an extraordinary power of _____up the human ego. To a dog, the human being who owns him is a god to be worshipped, and not only worshipped but, in our present _____ state of civilization, also loved.

(*a*) bolstering ... definite (*b*) demolishing ... decadent

(*c*) bolstering ... deciding (*d*) bolstering ... decadent

3. Laura remained under the care of Nannie, with daily visits from Miss Weekes, an _____ but _____ governess.

(*a*) amiable ... inspiring (*b*) amiable ... uninspiring

(*c*) irritating ... uninspiring (*d*) avuncular ... uninspiring

4. He had written several large and _____ volumes on _____ phases of history, written in such a way that very few people could understand what he was driving at.

(*a*) short ... obscure (*b*) abstruse ... general

(*c*) absentminded ... obscure (*d*) abstruse ... obscure

5. Mr. Franklin repeated the last phrases in a high _____tone of _____ contempt.

(*a*) falsetto ... mitigated (*b*) bass ... unmitigated

(*c*) falsetto ... disastrous (*d*) falsetto ... unmitigated

6. Arthur said that considering that the production of kittens that went on in the house was something _____ , it was hardly likely that Laura was completely _____ with the facts of life.

(*a*) astronomical ... unacquainted (*b*) astronomical ... acquainted

(*c*) astrophysical ... unacquainted (*d*) astronomical ... familiar

7. As I round the first curve of some _____ pass I feel the familiar tensing of the nerves, the onset of that curious _____ which will reach its peak with the highest point on the road and which will leave me, on the descent, with what I can describe as a sense of virtue.

(*a*) precious ... exaltation (*b*) precipitous ... depression

(*c*) precipitous ... trough (*d*) precipitous ... exaltation

8. Studies show that outbursts _____ and perpetuate anger, like a _____ blowing on fire.

(*a*) reduce ... bellows (*b*) augment ... blows

(*c*) augment ... bellows (*d*) stretch ... bellows

9. By combining the worlds of art and work, the Stradivarius is a _____ masterpiece of art and a tool for the _____ art of making musi(*c*)

(*a*) mundane ... sublime (*b*) unique ... sublime

(*c*) two-piece ... supreme (*d*) unique ... shallow

10. The _____ have done everything possible to deceive the _____.

(*a*) unscrupulous ... clever (*b*) honest dealers ... gullible

(*c*) unscrupulous ... gullible (*d*) guardians of morality ... shrewd people

11. This projection of _____ female sexuality is everywhere we look and has been since that obscene phenomenon the "new lad" _____ its equally repellent female twin, the beer-swilling, bawdy "ladette".

(*a*) voracious ... fawned (*b*) voracious ... tanned

(*c*) voracious ... spawned (*d*) subtle ... spawned

12. It's small wonder that the Duke, when he _____ the newspapers, as he does at breakfast every morning, exclaims _____, "Let's see what I did wrong yesterday!"

(*a*) uses ... ruefully (*b*) peruses ... ruefully

(*c*) peruses ... proudly (*d*) discards ... ruefully

13. In response to the follies of today's commercial and political worlds, the author does not ——— inflamed indignation, but rather ——— the detachment and smooth aphoristic prose of an eighteenth-century wit.

(*a*) display ... rails at (*b*) rely on ... avoids

(*c*) suppress ... clings to (*d*) express ... affects

14. An atmosphere that _____ the value and growth of individuals as well as the organization is important, and _____between individuals and the organization must be a team effort.

(a) Exudes ... discussion *(b)* Promotes ... connection

(c) Encompasses ... collaboration *(d)* Assesses ... links

15. A/an _____professional can help you establish a budget for your children's extracurricular activities based on your _____income and savings goals.

(a) knowledgeable ... current *(b)* qualified ... planned

(c) experienced ... estimated *(d)* recommended ... projected

Test 30

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each sentence below has two blanks, each blank indicates that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are a set of words. Choose the set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. A cut of that magnitude would _____ major reductions in spending that are likely to spur protests across many fronts, and Republican leaders have refused to _____ any major targets before Election Day.

(a) Cause, set *(b)* Impact, establish

(c) Necessitate, specify *(d)* Allow, regulate

2. The current round of reforms, which allow pension funds to invest more in equities, will help _____ market growth, as will the continued _____ of state-owned enterprises.

(a) Abet , protection *(b)* Stimulate, polarization

(c) Encourage, disinvestment *(d)* Spur, privatization

3. Customized products that _____ on data and better risk analysis could provide new_____for growth-boosting innovations.

(a) Postulate, conduits *(b)* Gamble, routes

(c) Rely, avenues *(d)* Lean, expectations

4. After two days of _____ when teams representing competitors and stakeholders role-played against a "company" team-the executives understood that a strong competitor on the sidelines was likely to enter the market _____.

(a) Reflection, tactfully *(b)* Simulations, aggressively

(c) Fabrications, shortly *(d)* Discussions, energetically

5. Greenberg held that the_____ of modern painting was the _____of all references to the visible world and an emphasis on painting's purely formal elements-the flatness of the canvas support and the colors arrayed across it.

(a) objective, delineating *(b)* quintessence, refuting

(c) defect, extirpating *(d)* essence, expunging

6. The _____ reason for the meeting was to review the budget, but the whole thing was really just a _____ to get him to the surprise party.

(a) ostentatious, ploy *(b)* ostensible, ruse

(c) fatuous, strategy *(d)* mendacious, excuse

7. Journalists are no longer part of the objective fourth estate; they are a/an _____ hypocritical bunch thriving on political _____.

(a) ubiquitous, intervention *(b)* raucous, circumspection.

(c) minatory, gullibility *(d)* unctuous,patronage

8. Everybody seemed to be cashing in on the sunburn jamboree. There was Arabian Nights, a beautifully illuminated and decorated hookah lounge with _____ Arab seating, furniture and fragrances_____ around.

(a) wontedly, pennant *(b)* traditional, aromatically

(c) traditional, wafting *(d)* exotic, pennon

9. I haven't been to Kashmir for over 30 years, even though some of the best years of my youth were spent there: floating in a shikara, _____ beside a river and ,yes, even _____ down daisy covered hillsides

(a) bemused, curlicueing *(b)* dreaming, rolling

(c) entranced, whorling *(d)* cavorting, trampling

10. Elections in India have _____ been fought on the promise of bijli, sadak and paani (power, road and water). While road and water are more or less accessible, power looks more and more _____. ..

(a) traditionally, elusive *(b)* always, knotty

(c) never, snarly *(d)* traditionally, convoluted

11. Alliances do not come apart for _____ reasons. They _____ over strategic interest

(a) political, atomize *(b)* tactical, disintegrate

(c) methodical, deliquesce *(d)* procedural, dilapidate

12. A good teacher not only improves a child's test scores in the classroom, but also _____ his or her chances to attend college, earn more money and avoid teen pregnancy, according to a new _____ study.

(a) embellishes, generative *(b)* aggrandizes, scholastic

(c) augments, influential *(d)* enhances, seminal

13. North Korea has angrily denied _____ that it _____ some of its citizens for inadequately mourning the death of its late leader Kim Jong Il.

(a) allegations, punished *(b)* avowals, hanged

(c) asservations, chastised *(d)* tales, corrected

14. The _____ that Britain was the ally of Czechoslovakia at the time of Munich has long been fostered in the United States, and it is regrettable that it should gain new currency in _____ columns.

(a) allegory, legit *(b)* myth, authoritative

(c) illusion, validated *(d)* delusion, circumstantiated

15. The _____ about transparency is that it works best in an _____ that is fundamentally honest. Honesty. in a system depends on its prior existence.

(a) anamoly, aura *(b)* oddity, domain

(c) enigma, milieu *(d)* paradox, environment

Test 31

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: In each question, there are four sentences. Each sentence has pairs of words/phrases that are italicized and highlighted. From the italicized and highlighted word(s)/phrase(s), select the **most appropriate** word(s)/phrase(s) to form correct sentences. Then, from the options given, choose the best one.

1. Some people feel that his **allusion** (A)/**illusion** (B) to the President was unnecessary.

Are we **already**(A)/ **all ready**(B) to leave on vacation?

The bride watched the seamstress **altar**(A)/**alter** (B) her wedding dress.

The ceremonial dinner prepared by novices failed to please the **palate** (A)/**palette** (B) of the guests.

The **Psalter**(A)/ **Salter** (B) treats meat, fish, or other foods with salt.

(*a*) ABBAB (*b*) AABAB (*c*) BBAAB (*d*) BABAB

2. They landed on the shores **whither** (A)/ **wither** (B) the storm had tossed them.

I can **steer** (A)/ **stere** (B) you to the best restaurant in town.

A **pall** (A)/ **pawl** (B) of smoke hung over the town.

In Western religion, **prophecy** (A)/ **prophesy** (B) is the divine gift of speaking the truth, especially about the future.

The new company has a **scaler** (A)/ **scalar** (B) structure for promoting personnel.

(*a*) BABAB (*b*) BBABA (*c*) AAAAB (*d*) ABABA

3. Deepak is in the habit of filling his **maser**(*A*) /**mazer** (*B*) to the brim whenever he has tea.

The government promulgated an **ordinance** (*A*)/ **ordnance** (*B*) against smoking in public places last year.

Mr. Banerjee has blown a lot of money on the court-case that is still lying **pendant**(*A*)/ **pendent** (*B*).

Mr. Ghosh, the eternal bachelor has now become infamous for his **rye**(*A*)/ **wry** (*B*) remarks about women.

Sanjay , the **scarf**(*A*)/ **scarph**(*B*) tycoon is revered among the sailors' community.

(*a*) AABAB (*b*) BABBB (*c*) BBAAB (*d*) AAABA

4. Prisons have acted more as centres for deterrence rather than as places meant for human **amendment** (*A*)/ **emendment**(*B*).

Even during the times of tragedy, many people refuse to part with their **corporeal** (*A*)/ **corporal** (*B*) belongings.

The recent ruling of the Honourable Supreme court of India extended the application of the law **farther** (*A*)/ **further**(*B*). gentle/ genteel Why are you panting? It was nothing more than a **gentle** (*A*)/**genteel**(*B*) slope.

The purpose of the law is not to **mete** (*A*)/ **meet** (*B*) out punishments.

(*a*) AABAA (*b*) BAABA (*c*) ABAAA (*d*) ABABA

5. Tripod is a vital **accessary** (*A*)/ **accessory** (*B*)of the camera.

A **disinterested**(*A*)/ **uninterested**(*B*) observer becomes an excellent judge of personality types and behaviour.

The **quiet**(*A*)/**quite**(*B*) within us is often misinterpreted as inhibition by the majority.

Most creative people have given full **reign**(*A*)/**rein**(*B*) to their creativity.

The **veracity** (*A*)/ **voracity**(*B*) of Narshiman's statement was questioned by the judge.

(*a*) BAABA (*b*) ABABA (*c*) BAAAB (*d*) BBABB

6. A turbulent childhood ofen **sears**(*A*)/ **seers**(*B*) people emotionally.

It would be best to leave Daisy out of the trip; we should give her enough time to recover from the **cavalry** (*A*)/ **calvary** (*B*).

Rohan is **bullish** (*A*)/ **bullion** (*B*) enough about making it to IIMs.

The police chief's credentials are **unexceptional** (*A*)/ **unexceptionable** (*B*)

Ekansh cannot be trusted; he often **simulates** (*A*)/ **dissimulates** (*B*) feelings about his enemies.

(*a*) AAABA (*b*) ABABB (*c*) ABABA (*d*) BABAB

7. On seeing the falcon Jane remarked " it is **whetting** (*A*)/ **wetting** (*B*) my appetite.

The exuberant students made a terrible **racquet** (*A*)/ **racket** (*B*) outside the principal's office.

European women are very fond of **faille** (*A*)/ **failed** (*B*) scarves .

The lawyers **deposed** (*A*)/ **disposed** (*B*) over a hundred witnesses in the Best Bakery case.

Fertilizers contain large amounts of **apatite** (*A*)/ **appetite** (*B*).

(*a*) AAAAA (*b*) BABBB (*c*) BBBBA (*d*) ABAAA

8. The research report **alludes** (*A*)/ **eludes** (*B*) to something now forgotten.

After that delicious meal, serving the tasty sweets would be **guilding** (*A*)/ **gilding** (*B*) the lily.

Chaucer, the **barred** (*A*)/**bard** (*B*) was responsible for a beautiful rendition of the lives of Canterbury folk in his famous "Canterbury tales".

The **coughers** (*A*)/ **coffers** (*B*) of the government were emptied by the corrupt ministers.

The disaster is **eminent** (*A*) / **imminent** (*B*) because of deforestation.

(*a*) BABBB (*b*) AABBB (*c*) ABABA (*d*) ABBBB

9. The **saver**(*A*)/ **savor** (*B*) of the coffee being served at the café was instrumental in pulling in a large clientle.

The angry crowd **guided** (*A*)/**guyed** (*B*)at the non-performing batsman.

The naughty child tore the currency note into ten small pieces making it **impassable** (*A*)/ **impassible** (*B*).

The inspector was fervently searching the **envelope** (*A*)/ **envelop** (*B*) that the sheriff had sent him yesterday.

Sudeep likes listening to Chopin **lieder**(*A*)/ **litter** (*B*).

(*a*) BAABB (*b*) ABAAA

(*c*) AABBB (*d*) BBAAA

10. Jim relished the **boullion** (*A*) /**bullion** (*B*) prepared by his mother.

The elections in the **borough** (*A*)/ **burrow** (*B*) witnessed rampant booth capturing.

The bartender was proud of his beautiful collection of **calixes** (*A*)/**calyxes** (*B*)

The **bawd** (*A*)/ **baud** (*B*) who was in charge of the illegal brothel was arrested.

The **acclamation** (*A*)/ **acclimation** (*B*) with the rough terrain is vital for good performance in the car-rally.

(*a*) BAABA (*b*) AABAB (*c*) AAAAB (*d*) BAAAB

11. The dictator trusted none, not even his **aide** (*A*)/ **aid** (*B*)

The teacher danced in the class to **illicit** (*A*)/ **elicit** (*B*) a response from the dull students.

Most buildings in Scandinavian countries turn **hoary** (*A*)/ **whory** (*B*) due to the cold climate in winters.

The **lone** (*A*)/ **loan** (*B*) campaigner ,in a zigoist nation , against the war had his head severed by the queen.

(*a*) AABA (*b*) ABAB (*c*) BBAA (*d*) ABAA

12. The jeweller was carefully examining the diamond under the **loupe** (*A*)/ **loop** (*B*) when the President of the Republic was assasinated outside his shop.

Ian was a musician adept at **luting** (*A*)/ **looting** (*B*) Elizabethan ballads.

The King was present at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly appointed **marquee** (*A*)/ **marquis** (*B*)

The chocolate cake was laced heavily with delicious **pinion** (*A*)/ **pinon** (*B*)

The **rigor** (*A*)/ **rigger** (*B*) of Jane's behaviour often offends people.

(*a*) AAAAB (*b*) AABBA (*c*) AABAA (*d*) BABBA

13. I was **roiled** (*A*)/ **royaled** (*B*) by Alok's impertinence.

The maid had to **wring** (*A*)/ **ring** (*B*)the bell in order to extract the stuck diaphragm.

The thief escaped the prison by planning a careful **ruse** (*A*)/ **rues** (*B*).

The priest was quoting verse from the **psalter** (*A*)/ **salter** (*B*) in his speech.

Even the most acerbic invectives cannot **phase** (*A*)/ **faze** (*B*) him.

(*a*) AAAAB (*b*) BBBBA (*c*) ABBAA (*d*) AAABA

14. She was given a one (A) ***carat***/ (B) ***karat*** diamond for her birthday.

She worked hard on the incisive (A)**squib**/(B)**squid** she wrote about the upcoming political debate.

When I tried on the new coat, I noticed that the right (A)**sleeve**/(B)**sleave** was too short for me.

The artist decided to (A)**tinge**/(B) **twinge** the sunset in the painting with a slight pink color.

The menu at the restaurant featured a (A)**croquet**/(B)**croquette** specialty.

(a) AABAB *(b)* BABAA *(c)* ABABA *(d)* ABBAA

15. he government issued a (A)***decree***/(B) ***decry*** to the effect that everyone should conserve water during the summer.

The bison are (A)**endemic**/(B)**epidemic** to the plains of North America.

He repaired the handle of the broomstick by using a (A)**ferrule**/(B)**ferule**.

He kept lifting the (A)**barbell**/(B)**barbel** until he was able to lift more weight than the other guys.

When I moved to the city, I lived in a (A)**garret**/(B) **garrote** at the top of the winding stairs

(a) BBBBB *(b)* AAAAA *(c)* ABABA *(d)* BBBAA

Test 32

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Mark the correct option from the given alternatives.

1. Idiosyncrasy is:

(*a*) the ideology of a political party or organization

(*b*) a peculiar habit or characteristic of an individual or group

(*c*) a synchronous movement between two mechanical parts

(*d*) a characteristic of selfish people

2. Someone with excessive concern for formal rules is:

(*a*) moribund (*b*) zealous (*c*) pedantic (*d*) rustic

3. Beleaguer means:

(*a*) to lend money (*b*) to harass (*c*) to sympathize (*d*) to scare

4. An ombudsman is:

(*a*) an impartial person who watches for administrative abuses inside organizations

(*b*) a person with unrivaled powers inside the government

(*c*) the head of any organization who is elected by a majority voting system

(*d*) a person who is granted political asylum in a country that is facing civil war

5. If something is in oblivion:

(*a*) time has severely ruined its forms

(*b*) it has been confiscated by a governmental body

(*c*) people have completely forgotten about it

(*d*) it can no longer be commercially traded between two or more countries

6. The fights on the streets created a big:

(*a*) void (*b*) turmoil (*c*) carbuncle (*d*) foil

7. Mary was always able to recover quickly from misfortunes. She was very:

(*a*) witty (*b*) brave (*c*) resilient (*d*) zany

8. A Pyrrhic victory is:

(*a*) a naval victory where all the ships from one side sink

(*b*) a victory where one of the sides flees

(*c*) actually a stalemate

(*d*) a victory with huge losses

9. A bipartisan act:

(*a*) must be approved by popular referendum

(*b*) is supported by both sides

(*c*) aims to reduce corruption inside the government

(*d*) can have only two decrees

10. Recoil means:

(*a*) to cover with oil, especially when referring to car engines

(*b*) to move away or bounce back

(*c*) to remove something with brute force

(*d*) to repeat the same movement over and over again

11. Rajesh was in a hurry so he entered the room:

(*a*) arrogantly (*b*) lonely (*c*) briskly (*d*) quietly

12. An algorithm is:

(*a*) a list of the elements contained in group or set

(*d*) a victory with huge losses

9. A bipartisan act:

(*a*) must be approved by popular referendum

(*b*) is supported by both sides

(*c*) aims to reduce corruption inside the government

(*d*) can have only two decrees

10. Recoil means:

(*a*) to cover with oil, especially when referring to car engines

(*b*) to move away or bounce back

(*c*) to remove something with brute force

(*d*) to repeat the same movement over and over again

11. Rajesh was in a hurry so he entered the room:

(*a*) arrogantly (*b*) lonely (*c*) briskly (*d*) quietly

12. An algorithm is:

(*a*) a list of the elements contained in group or set

(*b*) a set of guidelines used to create software, especially search related software

(*c*) a manual used in engineering projects

(*d*) a procedure defined to solve a problem, usually structured in steps

13. If something is implied by actions or statements, it is:

(*a*) frugal (*b*) tactic (*c*) tangible (*d*) tacit

14. They had mixed feelings about it; hence their comments were:

(*a*) agnostic (*b*) ambivalent (*c*) deliberate (*d*) antiquated

15. In a meritocracy:

(*a*) the advancement of individuals is based on their performance

(*b*) there is a strict hierarchy of powers

(*c*) the head of the government is elected by the population

(*d*) the senate is responsible for the approval of federal laws

Test 33

Total questions: 20 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Match each word in the first column with its corresponding collective noun in the second column.

1	pigeons	A	yoke
2	sardines	B	swarm
3	lions	C	pack
4	fish	D	family
5	locusts	E	flock
6	wolves	F	herd
7	camels	G	brood
8	cattle	H	flight
9	hens	I	shoal
10	oxen	J	pride

Directions: Match each word in the first column with its corresponding adjective/masculine/feminine form or residence in the second column.

11	horse	A	anuran
12	kangaroo	B	ophidian
13	rabbit	C	cetacean
14	elephant	D	stallion
15	snake	E	stable
16	goat	F	doe
17	whale	G	pen
18	zebra	H	burrow
19	pig	I	pachyderm
20	frog	J	nanny

Test 34

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each of the following questions has a paragraph with one italicized word that does not make sense. Choose the most appropriate replacement for that word from the options given below the paragraph.

1. The rooms are neutral in colour and ***eptly*** furnished; pinned to the kitchen noticeboard is a cleaning rota. It's all surprisingly ordinary.

(*a*) densely (*b*) sparsely (*c*) amenably (*d*) aesthetically

2. Her earliest promotional photographs are vibrant and a little bonkers, featuring Khan in a boxing ring, ***dexicated*** in feathers, with a golden headband that became her trademark.

(*a*) bedecked (*b*) desiccated (*c*) embalmed (*d*) garnished

3. June is an excellent time to visit Nice's Old Town - markets are a riot of colour with scented pajaro strawberries from Carros, fleshy asparagus, early-ripening Burlat cherries and pots of ***sicmetic*** basil.

(*a*) acerbic (*b*) anemic (*c*) emetic (*d*) aromatic

4. The atmosphere inside the stadium had reached fever pitch. The Czechs, having bounced to a ***miglitus*** beat, were living on their nerves and the Turkish fans, massed behind the goal that their team was attacking, implored even greater effort.

(*a*) rhythmic (*b*) dramatic (*c*) eclectic (*d*) delirious

5. If that sounds cruel, locals tremble at the thought of the factory ships that lurk out to sea, hoovering up and suffocating tuna to death in their holds, reducing stocks to the

point where Carloforte is one of only a ***mihun*** of commercial mattanze left in Italy.

(*a*) handful (*b*) meagre (*c*) yacht (*d*) series

6. Baby blackbirds taught to sing by the charity this year will be radio-tagged to investigate whether the recordings help ***hibidug*** the birds in the wild.

(*a*) engage (*b*) gyrate (*c*) gravitate (*d*) rehabilitate

7. The pebble dash people, Mondeo men and Worcester women (choose your own patronising alliterative) were not interested in legal ***ecrenig***. However vocal, high profile and persuasive the coalition was against the latest erosion of rights, it could never sway that.

(*a*) technicalities (*b*) tangle (*c*) turbulence (*d*) troughs

8. Last night, protests turned violent as a ***frector*** deployment of riot police prevented demonstrators from getting into Whitehall. Officers hit protesters with batons as they surged forward, and **25** people were arrested.

(*a*) aggressive (*b*) terrible (*c*) formidable (*d*) intense

9. In an apparent ***quisty*** to the London demonstration, Bush said last night that public opinion had never been a guiding principle of his presidency.

(*a*) riposte (*b*) retrograde (*c*) reprimand (*d*) retrieva

10. Aside from the collection of memorabilia, such as his ink-stained suit, what really brings his work to life for me is a series of readings
on CD, including the booming baritone of Richard Burton reading Under Milk Wood and Thomas himself reading Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night, the celebrated ***hitty*** to his dying father.

(*a*) invocation (*b*) night (*c*) devotion (*d*) paean

Directions for questions 11 to 15: Each question given below has five sentences. Each sentence has a pair of words that are written in bold. From these words, select the most appropriate words (A or B) to form correct sentences. The sentences are followed by options that indicate the words, which may be selected to correctly complete the set of sentences. From the options given, choose the most appropriate one.

11. (a) They awakened; they sat up; and then the **enormity(A)**/ **enormousness (B)** of their situation burst upon them.

(b) To what lengths have they searched for the **extant(A)**/ **extent (B)** manuscripts of the Gettysburg Address?

(c) The choirboys **exulted (A)**/ **exalted (B)** when they discovered they were to sing before such an audience.

(d) The manager despised them all, **especially (A)**/ **specially(B)** Nandita.

(e) Rain was forecast to continue through the week, slowing **aid (A)**/ **aide (B)** and rescue efforts.

(a) BBAAB *(b)* AAAAA *(c)* ABBAA *(d)* BABAB

12. (a) The general found it advantageous to blame his lieutenants for the **expeditious (A)/ expedient (B)** progress of the enemy.

(b) It is the same story every year, politicians going to every house to **canvas (A) /canvass (B)** voters.

(c) Aristocracy is not an institution: aristocracy is a sin; generally a very **venal (A) /venial (B)** one.

(d) As the child lay asleep in the lap of his mother, she could not **forbear (A)/ forebear (B)** giving it a hearty kiss.

(e) At this **juncture(A) / junction (B)**, I would like to make an important announcement.

(a) ABAAA *(b)* BBBAB *(c)* BAABB *(d)* ABBAA

13. (a) The old hunter told a **grisly (A)/ gristly (B)** tale of being mauled by bears.

(b) Food can be called beneficial if it helps us lead **healthful (A)/ healthy(B)** lives.

(c) Boris **emigrated (A)/ immigrated (B)** from Russia and came as an immigrant to the United States.

(d) He was doubtful that his brother could perform such **incredible(A)/ incredulous (B)** feats on the parallel bars.

(e) I try to be patient with Charles, but his loud laugh **aggravates (A)/ irritates (B)** me.

(a) ABAAB *(b)* BBAAA *(c)* AABAB *(d)* ABBBA

14. (a) The scientists produced a vague study concerning the **indeterminate (A)/ indeterminable(B)** number of stars in the universe.

(b) The frequency of **incidence (A)/ incidents(B)** involving racist slurs has become intolerable.

(c) The witness was asked to list the reasons he thought the grand jury should **indict(A)/ indite (B)** his boss for extortion.

(d) They **inflicted (A)/ afflicted (B)** a humiliating defeat on the host team.

(e) He knows that motorists are **eager (A)/ anxious (B)** to save on suspension parts and will give generously.

(a) ABAAA *(b)* ABBBB *(c)* BBAAA *(d)* BAABB

15. (a) Her naive mother expressed amazement that her daughter could create such an **ingenuous (A)/ ingenious(B)** demonstration for the science fair.

(b) He's in the **insidious (A)/ invidious (B)** position of having to break the bad news.

(c) In the burning heat, the team of scientists did an **intense (A)/ intensive(B)** study of the crop damage.

(d) She made a commendatory speech concerning the students' **laudable(A)/ laudatory (B)** accomplishments.

(e) The sensor does not need a battery or a **chord (A)/ cord (B)** and can run for decades without being changed or checked.

(a) ABABA *(b)* BBBAB *(c)* AAABA *(d)* BBBBB

Test 35

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question given below has five sentences. Each sentence has a pair of words that are written in bold. From these words, select the most appropriate words (A or B) to form correct sentences. The sentences are followed by options that indicate the words, which may be selected to correctly complete the set of sentences. From the options given, choose the most appropriate one.

1. (a) I am reluctant to associate with people who **loath (A)/ loathe (B)** me.

(b) He hawked his baskets of flowers as he **pedaled(A)/ peddled (B)** his bike around town.

(c) To carry out one's legal responsibilities is a fine thing; to **persecute(A)/ prosecute (B)** a fellow citizen is not.

(d) The staff office had a great deal of **personnel(A)/ personal(B)** information in its files.

(e) We were previously told that, due to the Mayan calendar, the world would end in the year 2012. **Subsequently (A)/ Consequently (B)**, we can expect climate change to cause another ice age and lead to our extinction.

(a) ABBAB *(b)* BABBA *(c)* BAABA *(d)* AABAB

2. (a) He was **poring(A)/ pouring (B)** over his books when he accidentally spilled coffee all over his papers.

(b) The water streams through **faucets (A)/ facets (B)** in the face of a wall of ancient masonry which stands removed from the houses of the village.

(c) At that time I was **ignorant (A)/ ignoring (B)** of the events going on elsewhere.

(d) The hyenas seem to **pray(A)/ prey (B)** over their kill before devouring it.

(e) The **prognosis (A)/ diagnosis (B)** for continued and sustainable improvements in human well-being on our planet is, at best, guarded.

(a) BAAAB *(b)* BBAAA *(c)* AABBB *(d)* AAAAA

3. (a) The lawyer's memory of **precedence(A) /precedents(B)** seemed to take priority over his memory of other matters.

(b) Jeremiah would **prophecy (A)/ prophesy(B)** whenever he felt the people needed to hear a prophecy.

(c) The troops moved with determination toward their doom, relying on the false information their leaders had **purposely(A)/ purposefully (B)** given them.

(d) The absent-minded professor called the **roll(A)/ role (B)** of the wrong class.

(e) The senator's speech carried a **distinct (A)/ distinctive (B)** odor of hypocrisy.

(a) BABAB *(b)* BAABB *(c)* BBAAA *(d)* ABAAA

4. (a) His explanations were not elaborate but not to the point of being **simple(A)/ simplistic (B)**.

(b) One study shows that people who **scrimp (A)/ skimp(B)** on sleep seem to have higher blood cholesterol than people who sleep more.

(c) We **racked(A)/ wrecked (B)** our brains trying to remember the author of "The Stranger".

(d) She had never aspired to be a Hollywood star, but like a **trooper (A)/ trouper (B)** she took the work that came her way and worked her way to the top.

(e) An **epigraph(A)/ epigram(B)**, it's said, is a "dwarfish whole—its body brevity, and wit its soul."

(a) BBAAB *(b)* AAABB *(c)* AABAA *(d)* ABBBA

5. (a) The wine of youth does not always clear with advancing years; sometimes it grows **turgid (A)/ turbid (B)**.

(b) They endured a **torturous(A)/ tortuous (B)** journey up the long and winding tributary of the Amazon.

(c) The police used a water cannon to **disperse (A)/ disburse (B)** the crowd.

(d) His personality was so bland that he was regarded as an **unexceptionable (A) / unexceptional(B)** candidate for congress.

(e) The taste of baked apples and the smell of a bonfire **invoke (A)/ evoke (B)** the pleasures of autumn.

(a) BAABB *(b)* ABBAA *(c)* BBABB *(d)* AABAA

6. (a) The report submitted by the committee does not quite **jibe (A) / gibe (B)** with the commissioner's observations.

(b) This nationwide statement was issued because of the numerous **waver (A)/ waiver (B)** requests the agency was receiving from local governments.

(c) The **imperious (A)/ impervious (B)** nature of your manner led me to dislike you at once.

(d) To call it **dribble (A)/ drivel (B)** would be like me ignoring your comment by assuming that it is ignorant.

(e) Gus tried to **flesh (A)/ flush (B)** out his novel with incidents borrowed from other writers.

(a) BABAA *(b)* BBBBB *(c)* BBABB *(d)* ABABA

7. (a) Catabolism is a **destructive (A)/ destroying (B)** metabolism which involves the breakdown of molecules and release of energy.

(b) She must feel **foolish (A)/ foolhardy (B)** wearing those flashy clothes.

(c) A company that was fined for its **discriminating (A)/ discriminatory (B)** practices in the hiring of women recently filed for bankruptcy.

(d) I never lifted another brush, stretched another canvas, prepared another **pallet (A)/ palette (B)**, or arranged another still life.

(e) A **felicitous (A)/ fortuitous (B)** encounter with a former schoolmate led to a new and successful career for the artist.

(a) AABBB (b) BAABB *(c)* AABAA *(d)* BBAAA

8. (a) The guerrillas are **fermenting (A) / fomenting (B)** revolution all over Latin America.

(b) The **vile (A) / bile (B)** development of slavery in these modern times appalled them to the core.

(c) In view of the nation-wide protests, the Congress may **emend (A)/ amend (B)** the proposed tax bill.

(d) At last I tore my eyes from the ground for a moment and saw that the sky was **lightening (A) / lightning (B)** with the promise of the Sun.

(e) Batteries are difficult to dispose of and contain harmful heavy-metal compounds that may **leach (A)/ leech (B)** into the soil.

(a) AABBA *(b)* BABAA *(c)* BABBB *(d)* AAABA

9. (a) When one is uncomfortable with people from their being excessively **amenable (A)/ amendable (B)**, one is soon to find things intolerable from their irritability.

(b) This may sound trivial, but I can **assure (A)/ ensure (B)** you it's important!

(c) To **restrain (A)/ refrain (B)** from attacking an army drawn up in calm and confident array is the art of studying circumstances.

(d) Federal courts have a certain **cachet (A)/ cache (B)** which state courts lack.

(e) While growing teens need extra calories, they should get them from **nutritional (A)/ nutritious (B)** sources—not from high-fat, high-calorie, high-sugar foods.

(a) BAABB *(b)* BAAAB *(c)* AABAB *(d)* ABBBA

10. (a) Anger is not a great human accomplishment, even when it is a **condign** (A)/ **condescend** (B) response to events.

(b) The child will only eat the **yolk (A)** / **yoke (B)** of an egg _ she won't eat the white.

(c) All the customs, all the laws, all the details, pertaining to the student duel are quaint and **(A)** / **knave (B)**.

(d) If it had been possible to build the Tower of **Babel (A)**/ **Babble (B)** without climbing it, it would have been permitted.

(e) On *The Office*, Steve Carell plays a confident, articulate buffoon with a serious attitude and an **officious (A)**/ **official (B)** air.

(a) BAABB *(b)* BAABB *(c)* AAAAA *(d)* ABAAA

11. (a) Cigarette smoking used to be commoner among **effluent (A)**/ **affluent (B)** people.

(b) The emcee promises an evening with a host of comic talent which will have you rolling in the **aisles (A)**/ **isles (B)**.

(c) It was only when the spray from the ship's **bow (A)**/ **bough (B)** hit his face did he realize that he was on a cruise.

(d) The corporation had many fresh college **complaisant (A)**/ **complacent (B)** graduates waiting to launch their careers.

(e) Studying history can help put the problems of our own time in **prospective(A)**/ **perspective (B)**.

(a) BAAAB *(b)* BAABA *(c)* ABABB *(d)* ABBAB

12. (a) Whenever he started to feel the pang of desire he would ask the landlord to **broach (A)**/ **brooch (B)** a new barrel of wine.

(b) He is much too **perspicuous (A)**/ **perspicacious (B)** to be taken in by such a spurious argument.

(c) The rehabilitated timber deck of the **quay (A)**/ **key (B)** is a generous public gathering place throughout the year.

(d) The monks took to **abrogation (A)**/ **abnegation (B)** and scourging as expiation for the sins of the world.

(e) Everybody hates a **prodigy (A)**/ **protégé (B)**, detests an old head on young shoulders.

(a) AABBB *(b)* BABAB *(c)* BBAAA *(d)* ABABA

13. (a) The soldier took a break from digging trenches and rested against the **boulevard** (A)/ **bulwark** (B).

(b) She considered not being invited for the wedding an unforgivable **sleight (A)**/ **slight (B)**.

(c) His arms closed like a **vise (A)**/ **vice (B)** round his son, and without a word he began to sob like a child.

(d) To this day people always speak of that Reform Bill as if it had been a **vile (A)/ wile (B)**.

(e) The government launched an offensive to **quench (A)/ quell (B)** a turf war between rival cartels.

(a) BABAA *(b)* BBABB *(c)* ABAAB *(d)* ABBBB

14. (a) Violent storms **wreaked (A)/ wrecked (B)** havoc on the coast in the form of loss of human life and destruction of property.

(b) Among the president's **perquisites (A)/ prerequisites (B)** were free use of a company car and paid membership in a country club.

(c) This is a country that accepts the case for tough choices on economic policy but one that recoils from much of the **peremptory (A)/ preemptory (B)** toughness of the coalition's solutions.

(d) Despite being a safe driver he **wracked (A)/ racked (B)** his car up on the river road.

(e) Floods, droughts, and severe storms are likely to **ravage (A)/ ravish (B)** North America more frequently as emissions of planet-warming gases rise.

(a) AAABA *(b)* BBBAB *(c)* BBBBB *(d)* AAAAA

15. (a) This story was published by the poet Nekrassov in his **review (A)/ revue (B)** and was received with acclamations.

(b) The team is hoping to sign a **marquee (A)/ marquis (B)** player to turn their fortunes after a disastrous start to the season.

(c) If you don't wear a jacket and tie, you won't pass **muster (A)/ mustard (B)** at that fancy restaurant.

(d) It's pitch black, they are disoriented, and the only sound is a low rumble and **creak (A)/ creek (B)** from the belly of the ship.

(e) Employee **attrition(A) /detrition (B)** is a critical problem faced by an *HR* manager during these days.

(a) BAABA *(b)* ABBAB *(c)* BBBBB *(d)* AAAAA

Test 36

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question given below has five sentences. Each sentence has a pair of words that are written in bold. From these words, select the most appropriate words (A or B) to form correct sentences. The sentences are followed by options that indicate the words, which may be selected to correctly complete the set of sentences. From the options given, choose the most appropriate one.

1. (a) The Ministers of the Cabinet held the meeting in the **capitol (A)/ capital (B)** of the State Legislature.

(b) You should try to put a **bridle (A) / bridal (B)** on your undue expenses.

(c) The travelers had to **break (A) / brake (B)** suddenly when the truck took the wrong turn.

(d) Her career took a remarkable **ascent (A) / assent (B)** after the publication of her debut
novel.

(e) The obstinate ministers decided to **annual (A) / annul (B)** the decisions of the king of the colossal empire because of his feeble condition.

(a) BABAB *(b)* AABAB *(c)* AAAAB *(d)* AABBB

2. (a) Nobody in the team liked the **boor (A) / boar (B)** yokel from the countryside.

(b) **Beside (A) / Besides (B)** the regular students, the alumni were also invited to the annual meet.

(c) With the affectionate lilt in her voice, she said, "**It's (A) / Its (B)** a great pleasure to have you here".

(d) His prior and **discrete (A) / discreet (B)** analysis of the situation helped save him from the irredeemable loss.

(e) Though the emperor was aware of the **eminent (A) / imminent (B)** danger, he fought back with the absolute valor of a knight to save his people.

(a) BABBB *(b)* ABAAA *(c)* ABABB *(d)* ABBAA

3. (a) The **continual (A) / continuous (B)** metro departures were a great convenience to the people coming from distant areas of the city.

(b) The tourists liked strolling through the **pier (A) / pyre (B)** in the pleasant evening.

(c) Will somebody **mete (A) / meet (B)** out justice to those responsible for the despicable condition of such impoverished children?

(d) The **elicit (A) / illicit (B)** act of the delinquent ruined his entire childhood.

(e) The **liable (A) / libel (B)** published in the today's newspaper was followed by the legal action taken by the chairman of the organization against the newspaper.

(a) BAABA *(b)* AABAA *(c)* BABBB *(d)* AAABB

4. (a) She was a maverick who shunned the **practise (A) / practice (B)** of wearing `burka' in public.

(b) The students sneaked out of the school **premise (A) / premises (B)** to go for a movie during school hours.

(c) In a fit of **pique (A) / peek (B)**, he slapped the bully.

(d) As he suffered from motion sickness, he **retched (A) / wretched (B)** the food he had
consumed before starting on the journey.

(e) The cyclone **razed (A) / raised (B)** the dwellings and millions of the inhabitants were left homeless.

(a) BBAAA *(b)* ABBAB *(c)* ABBAA *(d)* ABAAA

5. (a) Using the wedding **stationery (A) / stationary (B)** software, you can very easily design a wedding invitation card of your choice on the internet.

(b) The leper prince of the kingdom suffered in the **throes (A) / throws (B)** of his physical and mental illness.

(c) When he heard about his selection in the Indian team, his jubilation was **palatable (A)/ palpable (B)**.

(d) When it came to decision-making, it was the cardinal **tenet (A) / tenant(B)** of their functioning to involve every member of the team.

(e) That is the **stature (A) / statute (B)** law; how can they go against it and do such a reprehensible act.

(a) BAABA *(b)* AABAB *(c)* AAAAB *(d)* AABAA

6. (a) The **economic (A) / economical (B)** downturn during recession causes a sharp decline in the consumption and investment.

(b) The wild **gristly (A) / grizzly (B)** bear caused utter mayhem in the village.

(c) The jury was known to be perceptive, insightful and **uninterested (A) / disinterested (B)** in its approach.

(d) Her **childlike (A) / childish (B)** charm was a major fascination for her admirers.

(e) Every day sends to their graves obscure men whose **temerity (A) / timidity (B)** prevented them from making a valiant effort.

(a) BBBAB *(b)* ABBAB *(c)* BBBBB *(d)* AAAAB

7. (a) By the end of the session, the **demur (A) / demure (B)**, reticent kid transformed into an outgoing and gregarious personality.

(b) Neil Armstrong's **creditable (A) / credible (B)** achievement of landing on the moon has made history.

(c) His **forbidding (A) / foreboding (B)** premonition caused him many a sleepless night.

(d) The famous psychologist **floundered (A) / foundered (B)** for a great time to get the recommendation for his atypical psychological theories and therapies.

(e) The disease was controlled by the simple **expedient (A)/ expedition (B)** of not allowing anyone to leave the city.

(a) ABABB *(b)* AAABB *(c)* BAAAA *(d)* BAABB

8. (a) Lady Arabella stood a little on one side, and the African, accepting the movement as an invitation, entered in an **obsequious (A)/ obsequies (B)** way.

(b) His **immoral (A) / amoral (B)**, iniquitous and unscrupulous activities increased with his age and ultimately led him to terrible predicaments.

(c) The entire nation **exulted (A) / exalted (B)** in one spirit at the team's glorious and historic win.

(d) The king **adjured (A) / abjured (B)** the worldly pleasures and became a recluse in the search of God and the purpose of his existence.

(e) He started **griping (A) / gripping (B)** about the prices they were charging.

(a) BBBAB *(b)* BBBBB *(c)* BABAA *(d)* AAABA

9. (a) The **climactic (A) / climatic (B)** changes in the recent past were caused by global warming.

(b) He was devastated when he was betrayed by his only friend and **confidant (A) / confident (B)**.

(c) The nationalized banks follow very stringent **criteria (A) / criterion (B)** for the grant of education loan.

(d) He was **conscious (A) / conscience (B)** of his uncle's prejudice against him, but he never complained.

(e) B.C. Forbes said, "Work is the meat of life, pleasure the **desert (A) / dessert (B)**."

(a) BABAB *(b)* BBAAB *(c)* AABBB *(d)* BAAAB

10. (a) This kind of pottery work was a dime a dozen there; I got this vase for **quite (A) / quiet(B)** a reasonable price.

(b) His **illusion (A) / allusion (B)** to Freud's work on psychoanalysis was to express his disregard for Freud's dream theories.

(c) Parents should be wary of the **effects (A) / affects (B)** TV programs might have on their children.

(d) There are notable differences between the main **principals (A) / principles (B)** of two different sects of the same religion.

(e) Out of **apathy (A) / empathy (B)**, the crippled boy chose the limping dog from the pet shop.

(a) ABABA *(b)* BBBBA *(c)* ABABB *(d)* ABBBA

11. (a) Their four-hour match on Center Court was an **epoch (A)/ epic (B).**

(b) New Orleans, which always prided itself on being **carefree (A)/ careless (B)**, is now full of headaches and heartaches.

(c) A dozen people volunteered for the annual fundraising event, but **a few (A)/ the few (B)** have shown up.

(d) In spite of his injuries, he was a very **effective (A)/ efficient (B)** worker.

(e) My **restive(A)/ restless (B)** roaming spirit would not allow me to remain at home very long.

(a) BAAAA *(b)* BAABB *(c)* ABAAA *(d)* ABBBB

12. (a) Despite the downpour, the deafening thunder and the lightning that seemed ready to **sear (A)/ sere (B)** one's eyes, he stepped out of the house.

(b) We drilled a hundred feet through **shear (A)/ sheer (B)** rock before we finally struck oil.

(c) Accompanying the darkness, a stillness **envelops (A)/ envelopes (B)** the city.

(d) The president is **foundering (A)/ floundering (B)**, trying to jump-start his campaign, will he be able to pull through in the end is anybody's guess.

(e) She apologized for the **regrettable (A)/ regretful (B)** combination of errors.

(a) AABBB *(b)* BABAA *(c)* BBAAB *(d)* ABABA

13. (a) The development of the Communist revolution involves the most radical **rupture (A)/ rapture (B)** with traditional ideas.

(b) They dipped across beds of light snow and snow-powdered **shoal (A)/ shale (B)**, where they took refuge from a gale in a camp of Tibetans.

(c) She considered her suitor **deft (A)/ daft (B)** for making such an abrupt proposal.

(d) After completing the marathon, Erin sank to the ground, too **weary (A)/ wary (B)** to walk another step.

(e) After the massacre, the normally vociferous media were unusually **reluctant (A)/ reticent (B)**.

(a) BAABB *(b)* ABBAB *(c)* BBBBA *(d)* AAAAA

14. (a) The chaste banality of his prose **mitigates (A)/ militates (B)** against the stories becoming literature.

(b) They decided to **titivate (A)/ titillate (B)** their restaurant to attract back the clientele they had lost over the past year.

(c) So cunningly did Frodo twine and **wreathe (A)/ wreath (B)** his body about his captor's that the deathblow could not be struck.

(d) I counted on my ability to **illude (A)/ elude (B)** the predators amongst the many coverts which the mountains afforded.

(e) I don't want to get involved in all his **machinations (A)/ machines (B)**.

(a) BAAAB *(b)* BAABA *(c)* ABABA *(d)* ABBAB

15. (a) In spite of the initial hostilities, the meeting ended on reasonably **amicable (A)/ amiable (B)** terms.

(b) The panel began considering the issue last year after a prominent **better (A)/ bettor (B)** sought to prove that it was possible to cheat the wagering system.

(c) The Jewish vote, insofar as it can be thought of as a **bloc (A)/ block (B)**, is important only in New York.

(d) **Continuous (A)/ Continual (B)** effort is the key to unlocking our potential because without it we would never be successful.

(e) A national effort to encourage businesses to employ workers with disabilities is taking a lighthearted **tact (A)/ tack (B)** rather than a sober or earnest approach.

(a) BABAB *(b)* BAABA *(c)* ABAAB *(d)* ABBBA

Test 37

Total questions: 15 Time: 20 minutes

Directions: Each question given below has five sentences. Each sentence has a pair of words that are written in bold. From these words, select the most appropriate words (A or B) to form correct sentences. The sentences are followed by options that indicate the words, which may be selected to correctly complete the set of sentences. From the options given, choose the most appropriate one.

1. (a) Ambulances raced by with sirens **wailing (A) / waling (B)**.

(b) In the International Business Conference, hundreds of **vantage (A) / vintage (B)** cars were displayed.

(c) She said, "With that **taut (A) / tout (B)** expression on your face, you are going to spoil your interview. Just keep your cool, dear."

(d) **Sulking (A) / Skulking (B)** will serve no purpose; we need to sit and talk about it.

(e) Beautifully rising from the ground, the **stalagmites (A) / stalactites (B)** looked like a natural piece of art.

(a) BBABA *(b)* ABBBA *(c)* ABABA *(d)* ABAAA

2. (a) Subscription in fitness centres is the **vague (A) / vogue (B)** these days.

(b) The **tortuous (A) / torturous (B)** road to their destination seemed never-ending to the travellers.

(c) The **risqué (A) / risk (B)** narration of the tale was not welcomed by his friends who found it improper.

(d) Beware of that **rogue (A) / rouge (B)** for he will not hesitate to take unfair advantage of your goodness.

(e) The toyshop had a variety of toys, **especially (A) / specially (B)** for kids less than three years of age.

(a) BBAAB *(b)* BAABA *(c)* BAAAA *(d)* BAAAB

3. (a) The **rampart (A) / rampant (B)** corruption in the country has incited the citizens to take an action against it.

(b) Well-known for his controversial novels, he is considered to be a writer of **premiere (A) / premier (B)** rank worldwide.

(c) The **precipitous (A) / precipitate (B)** decision of the chairperson caused the company to incur huge losses.

(d) The decision was supported by the large proportion of the **populous (A) / populace (B)**.

(e) Not convinced by the closure report submitted by the police, he felt **impaled (A)/ impelled (B)** to investigate the matter further.

(a) AAABB *(b)* BBABB *(c)* ABABB *(d)* BBAAA

4. (a) Zainab is a **veracious (A) / voracious (B)** reader and maintains a rich library at her place.

(b) The **sensuous (A) / sensual (B)** note of the sitar was so mesmerizing that the crowd was lost in its spell.

(c) It is **ironical (A) / satirical (B)** that the most affluent people are the most disconcerted in life.

(d) With the improper functioning of the **mucus (A) / mucous (B)** membrane, his asthma got more severe.

(e) The old man narrated a sad tale, **redolent (A)/ indolent (B)** of regret, anger and misery.

(a) BAABA *(b)* BBAAA *(c)* BBABA *(d)* BBAAB

5. (a) "Don't **meddle (A) / mettle (B)** in everybody's personal life; your unsolicited advices are not welcome at all."

(b) The **luxuriant (A) / luxurious (B)** orchard was known for its wide range of voluptuous fruits.

(c) I **loathe (A) / loath (B)** anyone who adopts a façade of respectability to get what he wants.

(d) His tone **inferred (A)/ implied (B)** that he disapproved of my work.

(e) Robin had put on his coat, and he stood before her and asked if his **corvette (A) / cravat (B)** was plumb.

(a) AABBB *(b)* AAABB *(c)* ABBBB *(d)* AABBA

6. (a) The word `politics' **comprises (A)** / **composes (B)**, in itself, a difficult study of no inconsiderable magnitude

(b) The **enormousness (A)** / **enormity (B)** of the palatial building was breathtaking.

(c) In the end, the **duel (A)** / **dual (B)** got so intense that it was difficult to control it.

(d) He is so **adapt (A)** / **adept (B)** in handicrafts that his works have got international acclaim.

(e) Your **latter (A)** / **later (B)** answer was more convincing to me than the former.

(a) ABABA *(b)* ABAAA *(c)* AAABA *(d)* ABABB

7. (a) This was not a **fortuitous (A)** / **fortunate (B)** win; it happened because of his incessant efforts and his unalterable focus.

(b) His **exceptional (A)** / **exceptionable (B)** propensity for music made him approach the best artist in the city for formal training.

(c) The heavy downpour **exasperated (A)** / **exacerbated (B)** the drainage problems in the city.

(d) The young enthusiastic Indians **expounded (A)** / **espoused (B)** the revolutionary extremist movement to fight against the British.

(e) His personal animosity came out as **gratis (A)** / **gratuitous (B)** criticism against her.

(a) ABBAB *(b)* ABBBB *(c)* AABAB *(d)* AABBB

8. (a) According to the writer's volition, his famous poem was carved as his **epitaph (A)** / **epithet (B)** on the headstone of his grave.

(b) The **epigraph (A)** / **epigram (B)** to this book is quoted from the writer's recently published essay.

(c) I have a **callous (A)** / **callus (B)** on my left toe and now it is extending to my ankle.

(d) Her writings were good but so **obtuse (A)** / **abstruse (B)** that she got little acclaim for them.

(e) The study mentions the **addicting (A)** / **addictive (B)** behavior patterns of many individuals towards drugs.

(a) BABBA *(b)* BBABA *(c)* BBBBB *(d)* AABBB

9. (a) You can use this **augur (A)** / **auger (B)** to drill rectangular marks into the plank.

(b) This footwear **complements (A)** / **compliments (B)** your beautiful dress.

(c) The Minister took the formal oath wearing the **mantle (A)** / **mantel (B).**

(d) The museum's **eclectic (A)**/ **exotic (B)** collection has everything from a faded giraffe skeleton to rustic medieval musical instruments.

(e) The **oriental (A)** / **occidental (B)** traditions and practices are eventually being embraced by the West.

(a) ABAAB *(b)* BAAAA *(c)* AAAAB *(d)* BAAAB

10. (a) She was such a revered figure, that the news of her death cast a **pall (A)**/ **pawl (B)** over the event.

(b) He had no **palate (A)** / **palette (B)** for alcoholic beverages.

(c) She adorned herself with a **wreath (A)** / **wrath (B)** of flowers for the performance.

(d) A **hoard (A)** / **horde (B)** of tourists is seen in every part of Himachal Pradesh from May to August.

(e) Raman **flaunted (A)** / **flouted (B)** his knowledge whenever he was with his classmates.

(a) ABAAA *(b)* BBABB *(c)* AAABA *(d)* ABAAA

11. (a) The minister entreated his wayward congregation to **abjure (A)** / **adjure(B)** the sins of the flesh.

(b) She was confused, displaying mixed feelings about the **ambiguous(A)**/ **ambivalent (B)** situation they'd gotten into.

(c) After we have the jeweler evaluate the diamond, we will **apprise(A)**/ **appraise(B)** you of its value.

(d) Sometimes it seems more shocking to be lacking moral sensibility than to be **amoral (A)**/ **immoral(B)**.

(e) A **classic (A)**/ **classical (B)** is a book that doesn't have to be written again.

(a) BAABA (b) AAABB *(c)* AABAB *(d)* ABAAA

12. (a) In mock debates, we used to interchange sides, taking **alternate (A)** /**alternative(B)** positions.

(b) Government agencies tried to assuage the effects of the depression. They attempted to **ameliorate(A)** / **alleviate(B)** the job-seeking process.

(c) There are various reasons that **compel (A)** / **impel (B)** me to that conclusion.

(d) He told a funny account about mixing up his soda with the snakebite **antidote(A)**/ **anecdote(B)**.

(e) Obama is compelled to jump into **unchartered (A)** / **uncharted (B)** territory.

(a) BAABA *(b)* BABAA *(c)* BABAB *(d)* ABAAB

13. (a) The lower part of the gun slammed into his shoulder as he fired into the **breach(A)**/ **breech(B)** of the wall.

(b) **Cavalry(A)**/ **Calvary (B)**, which describes an army component, usually on horseback, is often confused with the place where Jesus was crucified.

(c) Some people thought he was sweet and innocent, but I always thought he was boorish and **childlike (A)/ childish(B)**.

(d) The crowning moment of a lightning storm, nature's most dramatic **climatic(A) / climactic (B)** event, is a deafening roll of thunder.

(e) Kwame made a strong case for an extension of his curfew, but his mother **repudiated (A)/ refuted (B)** it with a few biting words.

(a) AABAA *(b)* AAAAB *(c)* BBBAB *(d)* AABBA

14. (a) Bewildered by the instructor's ambiguous instructions, the students' problems were **compounded(A)/ confounded (B)** by a lack of time to do the exam.

(b) Loutish tourists who are **contemptuous (A) /contemptible(B)** of the ways and traditions of their host countries should be barred.

(c) It didn't seem **credible(A)/ credulous(B)** that such an honorable person would say such a horrible thing.

(d) If you wish to seem coy, you will have to **demure (A)/ demur(B)** less vociferously.

(e) A boy of twelve is in intensive care in a hospital after a group of teenagers doused him in **inflammatory (A)/ inflammable (B)** liquid and then threw a lighted match at him.

(a) AAABB *(b)* BBBBA *(c)* BABAA *(d)* ABABB

15. (a) The word *guts* means one's viscera, one's intestines, but it also **denotes (A) /connotes (B)** determination, fortitude, persistence, and courage.

(b) He **frittered(A)/ fettered (B)** away the millions his father had left him and died a poor man.

(c) When asked to take apart his old jalopy, Charles agreed, seeming to **dissemble(A)/ disassemble (B)**.

(d) The story of a chairman of the library committee who spent his lunch hours reading children's comics was unfortunately not **apocryphal (A)/ apothecary (B).**

(e) Let us **propound (A)/ propose (B)** the question whether mercy killing should ever be an option.

(a) BAABA *(b)* BAAAA *(c)* AABBB *(d)* ABBAB

Answer Key

Chapter - 1

Test

1. Anthropology **2.** Altruism **3.** Podiatry **4.** Atheism **5.** Lithology

6. Neologism **7.** Calligraphy **8.** Chronology **9.** Nihilism **10.** Dermatology

11. Narcissism **12.** Metrology **13.** Biology **14.** Somnambulism

15. Genealogy **16.** Paedology **17.** Psychiatry **18.** Gerontology

19. Odontology **20.** Nepotism

Chapter - 4

Activity -

1 – E
2 – D
3 – F
4 – G
5 – I
6 – C
7 – J
8 – A
9 – B
10 – H

Chapter - 7

Test 1

1. (*c*) **2.** (*a*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*b*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*a*) **10.** (*c*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*b*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*d*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 2

1. (*d*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*b*) **4.** (*d*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*a*) **8.** (*c*) **9.** (*c*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*b*) **12.** (*a*) **13.** (*c*) **14.** (*d*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 3

1. (*b*) **2.** (*b*) **3.** (*c*) **4.** (*c*) **5.** (*c*) **6.** (*c*) **7.** (*b*) **8.** (*a*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*a*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*d*) **15.** (*b*)

Test 4

1. (*a*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*b*) **4.** (*d*) **5.** (*c*) **6.** (*c*) **7.** (*c*) **8.** (*a*) **9.** (*a*) **10.** (*b*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*b*) **15.** (*c*)

Test 5

1. (*c*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*b*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*a*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*c*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*c*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*a*) **13.** (*d*) **14.** (*a*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 6

1. (*c*) **2.** (*a*) **3.** (*b*) **4.** (*c*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*a*) **7.** (*b*) **8.** (*c*) **9.** (*b*) **10.** (*b*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*d*) **14.** (*a*) **15.** (*c*)

Test 7

1. (*a*) **2.** (*a*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*d*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*c*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*b*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*a*) **13.** (*c*) **14.** (*d*) **15.** (*c*)

Test 8

1. (*b*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*c*) **6.** (*b*) **7.** (*c*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*c*) **10.** (*c*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*c*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 9

1. (*d*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*a*) **4.** (*d*) **5.** (*c*) **6.** (*a*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*c*) **10.** (*c*)

11. (*a*) **12.** (*c*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*b*) **15.** (*b*)

Test 10

1. (*a*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*b*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*a*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*c*)

11. (*a*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*c*) **14.** (*a*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 11

1. (*b*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*a*) **4.** (*c*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*a*) **8.** (*c*) **9.** (*c*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*b*) **12.** (*a*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*d*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 12

1. (*d*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*c*) **7.** (*b*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*b*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*c*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*b*) **15.** (*a*)

Test 13

1. (*b*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*c*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*b*) **8.** (*a*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*b*)

11. (*c*) **12.** (*a*) **13.** (*d*) **14.** (*b*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 14

1. (*a*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*b*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*b*) **6.** (*b*) **7.** (*b*) **8.** (*c*) **9.** (*c*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*c*) **12.** (*a*) **13.** (*d*) **14.** (*c*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 15

1. (*a*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*d*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*c*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*b*) **9.** (*a*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*c*) **14.** (*b*) **15.** (*a*)

Test 16

1. (*d*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*c*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*a*) **9.** (*c*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*b*) **12.** (*c*) **13.** (*d*) **14.** (*a*) **15.** (*b*)

Test 17

1. (*d*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*c*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*c*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*a*) **8.** (*b*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*d*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 18

1. (*c*) **2.** (*b*) **3.** (*c*) **4.** (*c*) **5.** (*b*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*c*) **8.** (*a*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*c*) **12.** (*b*) **13.** (*b*) **14.** (*d*) **15.** (*b*)

Test 19

1. (*b*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*a*) **4.** (*c*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*c*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*c*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*b*) **15.** (*c*)

Test 20

1. (*b*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*d*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*b*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*a*) **13.** (*b*) **14.** (*c*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 21

1. (*d*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*c*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*c*) **12.** (*a*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*a*)

Test 22

1. (*a*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*a*) **4.** (*d*) **5.** (*c*) **6.** (*a*) **7.** (*a*) **8.** (*b*) **9.** (*b*) **10.** (*b*)

11. (*b*) **12.** (*a*) **13.** (*d*) **14.** (*a*) **15.** (*b*)

Test 23

1. (*b*) **2.** (*a*) **3.** (*c*) **4.** (*b*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*a*) **7.** (*a*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*b*) **10.** (*a*)

11. (*c*) **12.** (*c*) **13.** (*d*) **14.** (*a*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 24

1. (*a*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*b*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*c*) **7.** (*a*) **8.** (*b*) **9.** (*b*) **10.** (*a*)

11. (*a*) **12.** (*c*) **13.** (*c*) **14.** (*d*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 25

1. (*c*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*a*) **4.** (*c*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*a*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*a*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*a*)

11. (*a*) **12.** (*b*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*a*) **15.** (*b*)

Test 26

1. (*a*) **2.** (*b*) **3.** (*c*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*b*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*c*) **10.** (*a*)

11. (*c*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*c*) **14.** (*d*) **15.** (*c*)

Test 27

1. (*b*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*a*) **7.** (*c*) **8.** (*b*) **9.** (*b*) **10.** (*c*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*c*) **13.** (*b*) **14.** (*b*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 28

1. (*b*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*b*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*c*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*c*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*a*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*c*) **14.** (*a*) **15.** (*a*)

Test 29

1. (*a*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*b*) **4.** (*d*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*a*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*c*) **9.** (*b*) **10.** (*c*)

11. (*c*) **12.** (*b*) **13.** (*d*) **14.** (*c*) **15.** (*a*)

Test 30

1. (*c*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*c*) **4.** (*b*) **5.** (*d*) **6.** (*b*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*c*) **9.** (*b*) **10.** (*a*)

11. (*b*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*b*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 31

1. (*a*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*b*) **4.** (*c*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*b*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*c*)

11. (*d*) **12.** (*b*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*a*) **15.** (*b*)

Test 32

1. (*b*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*b*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*c*) **6.** (*b*) **7.** (*c*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*b*) **10.** (*b*)

11. (*c*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*d*) **14.** (*b*) **15.** (*a*)

Test 33

1. H **2.** D **3.** J **4.** I **5.** B **6.** C **7.** E **8.** F **9.** G **10.** A

11. E **12.** F **13.** H **14.** I **15.** B **16.** J **17.** C **18.** D **19.** G **20.** A

Test 34

1. (*b*) **2.** (*a*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*d*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*a*) **8.** (*c*) **9.** (*a*) **10.** (*d*)

11. (*b*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*a*) **14.** (*c*) **15.** (*b*)

Test 35

1. (*c*) **2.** (*d*) **3.** (*c*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*a*) **6.** (*d*) **7.** (*a*) **8.** (*b*) **9.** (*c*) **10.** (*c*)

11. (*a*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*b*) **14.** (*d*) **15.** (*d*)

Test 36

1. (*b*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*d*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*b*) **6.** (*b*) **7.** (*c*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*d*) **10.** (*c*)

11. (*b*) **12.** (*d*) **13.** (*b*) **14.** (*b*) **15.** (*c*)

Test 37

1. (*d*) **2.** (*c*) **3.** (*b*) **4.** (*a*) **5.** (*b*) **6.** (*c*) **7.** (*d*) **8.** (*d*) **9.** (*b*) **10.** (*c*) **11.** (*d*) **12.** (*c*) **13.** (*d*) **14.** (*a*) **15.** (*b*)

Explanations: Fundamentals of Vocabulary

Chapter - 1

Test

1. Anthropology 2. Altruism 3. Podiatry 4. Atheism

5. Lithology 6. Neologism 7. Calligraphy 8. Chronology

9. Nihilism 10. Dermatology 11. Narcissism 12. Metrology

13. Biology 14. Somnambulism 15. Genealogy 16. Paedology

17. Psychiatry 18. Gerontology 19. Odontology 20. Nepotism

Chapter - 4

Activity -

1. E
2. D
3. F
4. G
5. I
6. C
7. J
8. A
9. B
10. H

Chapter - 7

Test 1

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. d 7. d 8. d 9. a 10. c

11. d To construe is to interpret, analyse or explain something.

12. b An illusion is a deception, a false mental representation of facts which are not true.

13. a To upbraid is to reproach, accuse or impeach someone.

14. d What seems to be, what can be made out from appearances, or what is apparent, is ostensible. It may not be the truth.

15. d A discursive lecture is wordy and rambling. It digresses from the main point to cover a vast range of subjects.

Test 2

1. d 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. a 6. d 7. a 8. c 9. c 10. d

11. b Gauche behaviour is unpolished, graceless behaviour.

12. a A crass cacophony is a harsh, unrefined jarring sound.

13. c To aver is to solemnly declare or affirm something as formally true.

14. d 15. d

Test 3

1. b 2. b 3. c 4. c 5. c 6. c 7. b 8.a 9. d 10. d

11. a To espouse something is to choose and follow it; as of theories, ideas, policies, strategies, or plans. Embrace is a synonym of espouse.

12. d A child prodigy is a child wonder or genius. An amateur is a layperson without expertise.

13. a To converge means to gather or meet. To brook is to grant or endure. Conceding means to acknowledge as true.

14. d To quail is to cower, to shrink back in fear. Jocund means jovial. Adhesion means the act of adhering or being united.

15. b A predicament is a quandary or a difficult situation from which it is difficult to escape. Mirth means glee or hilarity. Wholly means entirely or totally.

Test 4

1. a 2. d 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. c 7. c 8. a 9. a 10. b

11. d A panorama is a vista or a visual perception of a region. To be incoherent is to be unable to express your thoughts logically. To be curt is to be brief and to the point to the extent of being rude. To be succinct is to briefly give the gist of something.

12. d To study in an arduous fashion is to do back-breaking, gruelling work.

13. a Tantamount means as good as or equivalent to.

14. b A patio is usually a paved outdoor area adjoining a residence. Veranda is the best synonym from the given options. Reverberation is the persistence of sound after its source has stopped or the indirect consequence of some action. Mansion means a large and impressive stately residence.

15. c To work feverishly is to work in a frenzy or hectic manner.

Test 5

1. c 2. d 3. b 4. a 5. d 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. c

11. d To goad means to spur, to provide stimulus.

12. a Sacrilege is used to describe something that is impious, immoral, or against God and religion.

13. d To twirl is to twist, spin or whirl something.

14. a A wharf is a dock, a quay or a landing stage for ships and other sea vessels.

15. d Beatific is an adjective used to describe something blissful and heavenly.

Test 6

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. c 5. d

6. a `Puissant' means powerful or potent.

7. b `Asunder' means apart.

8. c `Foster' pertains to promote.

9. b `Recapitulate' means to reiterate.

10. b `Levity' means lightness of mind, character or behaviour. Hence, frivolity is the correct answer.

11. d Acrimony means sharp and bitter behaviour. Virulence is its synonym. Exonerate means to acquit, or pronounce not guilty.

12. d Beguile and hoodwink mean to influence by slyness. To apprise someone is to provide information.

13. d To exalt means to extol or to glorify someone or something.

14. a A quandary is a dilemma, a state of perplexity where it is difficult to make a choice. Sullen means brooding; mitigate is to lessen the seriousness to less harsh; diffident means shy or someone lacking in confidence.

15. c To be rapacious is to crave or consume food in great quantities, to be extremely greedy. Voracious is a synonym of rapacious.

Test 7

1. a 2. a 3. d 4. d 5. a 6. c 7. d 8. b 9. d 10. d

11. d 12. a 13. c 14. d 15. c

Test 8

1. b 2. d 3. d 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. c 10. c

11. d 12. d 13. a 14. c 15. d

Test 9

1. d 2. d 3. a 4. d 5. c 6. a 7. d 8. d 9. c 10. c

11. a 12. c 13. a 14. b 15. b

Test 10

1. a 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. d 6. a 7. d 8. d 9. d 10. c 11. a 12. d

13. c Disinter means "To dig up or remove from a grave or tomb". This makes `bury' the best antonym.

14. a Diatribe means "A bitter, abusive denunciation". The opposite would be a word/phrase with a positive charge. Choice (a) is the strongest positive phrase and fits in well.

15. d Hoodwink means to deceive. The opposite of this is "disabuse". This makes Choice (d) correct.

Test 11

1. b To disconcert someone is to cause someone to lose composure or to cause embarrassment. Options (a), (c) and (d) are synonyms of disconcert. Option (b), hearten, which means to encourage or cheer is the best antonym from the given choices.

2. c Abeyance means suspension. Therefore, option (c) that is continuation is the best antonym from the given choices.

3. a A fracas is a noisy quarrel. Concurrence means to agree, to work in cooperation.

4. c An assiduous person works hard with great care. An indolent person on the other hand is extremely lazy and shirks work.

5. d To slander means to bad-mouth or malign someone. To praise someone is just the opposite.

6. d The advent of something is its start or beginning. Departure is just the opposite. A eulogy is a formal expression of praise; an accord is an agreement. Contrive means to plan or cook up.

7. a To do something with aplomb means to maintain great composure even under strain. Awkwardness is the antonym of aplomb. Acumen is shrewdness shown by keen insight; base has many meanings that range from the foundation or lower limit of something to

low station of birth or not adhering to moral principles; an agile person moves very quickly and lightly.

8. c Depression is characterised by low spirits and a feeling of dejection. To be buoyant on the other hand means to be cheerful and chirpy.

9. c Urbane is a synonym of sophisticated (familiar with the urban way of life). Bucolic is its antonym. It describes a countryperson concerned with the raising of cattle. A bolster is a kind of pillow.

10. d Harmony indicates "Agreement in feeling or opinion; accord". Out of the given options, Choice (d) which means absence of accord is the correct answer choice.

11. b Jocular is characterized by joking (Related word - jovial). The opposite of this is a person with a serious temperament. This makes Choice (b) correct.

12. a Impede refers to retarding the progress of something in particular. The opposite of this would be a word with a positive charge. Out of the given options, (a) fits in best as the most appropriate antonym.

13. a Sap means to "draw out all strength and vigor". The opposite would be a word with a positive charge and in this case, fortify means " to make strong". This makes Choice (a) correct.

14. d Commodious means "spacious". The best antonym for the word is cramped - lacking adequate space. This makes Choice (d) correct.

15. d Inimitable means "Defying imitation; matchless". The word that best opposes it is Choice (d).

Test 12

1. d `Garrulous' is excessively alkative. Hence, reticent.

2. c `Gossamer' means something light, delicate or insubstantial. `Corpulent' is its opposite.

3. d `Gaucherie' means awkward whereas `refinement' means sophistication.

4. a `Nefarious' means evil, therefore `righteous'.

5. d `Ebullience' refers to jubilation. Hence, `apathy' is the best answer.

6. c `Artlessness' pertains to simplicity whereas `deceit' means trick.

7. b `Impugn' means to challenge or command whereas `adjure' means to request or plead.

8. d `Perfidious' means treacherous. Hence, faithful.

9. b Heterogeneous pertains to motley. Hence, uniform.

10. d `Capricious' means unpredictable. Hence `stable' is the best word.

11. d *Spendthrift* is a person who spends possessions or money extravagantly or wastefully. Hence, *skinflint* which refers to a person who is a miser is the correct antonym. *Servile* is someone who is slavishly submissive or obsequious. *Boorish* is someone who is insensitive.

12. c *Vindictive* means disposed or inclined to revenge. Hence, *forgiving* is the correct antonym. *Flamboyant* refers to a person who is strikingly bold or brilliant. *Vengeance* means infliction of injury, harm, humiliation, or the like, on a person by another who has been harmed by that person. *Stultify* means to make, or cause to appear, foolish or ridiculous.

13. a *Trammel* means a hindrance or impediment to free action. Hence, *support* is the correct antonym. *Camaraderie* means good fellowship. *Contiguous* means touching or in contact.

14. b *Truculent* refers to someone who is fierce or crude. Therefore *gentle* is the correct antonym. *Zeal* means enthusiastic diligence. Zany refers to a silly person.

15. a *Obnoxious* means highly objectionable or offensive. Hence (a) is the correct antonym. *Delirious* means wild with excitement or enthusiasm.

Test 13

1. b 2. d 3. d 4. a 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. a 9. d 10. b

11. c **Anachronism** means the representation of someone as existing or something as happening in other than chronological, proper, or historical order. **Atavism** here means the return of a trait or recurrence of previous behavior after a period of absence.

Dogmatism means arrogant, stubborn assertion of opinion or belief.

Plagiarism means to use and pass off (the ideas or writings of another) as one's own.

12. a **Chauvinism** here means prejudiced belief in the superiority of one's own gender, group, or kind. **Stoicism** means the ability to experience pain and pleasure equally. **Stoicism** The doctrines or philosophy of the Stoics. **Patriotism** means love of and devotion to one's country.

13. d **Materialism** means a great or excessive regard for worldly concerns. **Secularism** denotes the view that religious considerations should be excluded from civil affairs or public education. **Realism** is an inclination toward literal truth and pragmatism.

14. b **Hedonism** refers to pursuit of or devotion to pleasure, especially to the pleasures of the senses. **Empiricism** is the view that experience, especially of the senses, is the only source of knowledge. **Surrealism** is a 20th-century literary and artistic movement that attempts to express the workings of the subconscious and is characterized by fantastic imagery and incongruous juxtaposition of subject matter. **Relativism** is a theory, especially in ethics or aesthetics, that conceptions of truth and moral values are not absolute but are relative to the persons or groups holding them.

15. d **Skepticism** refers to the doubting or questioning attitude or state of mind; dubiety **Voyeurism** describes a person who derives sexual gratification from observing the

naked bodies or sexual acts of others, especially from a secret vantage point. **Nepotism** is favoritism shown or patronage granted to relatives, as in business.

Test 14

1. a `Vivid' is the most appropriate option here, since in the next sentence the author talks about `here too ..' then he goes on describing the scene setting.

2. d `Atmospheric' goes with the scene setting.

3. b `deserted' is the most appropriate word.

4. a `Familiar themes' go with `inevitability'.

5. b `Ravages' is an appropriate word to go with `age' in the given context.

6. b A modicum is a small amount.

7. b Persecution refers to abuse or ill-treatment. An appraisal is an assessment.

8. c A sly person is a crafty, cunning, fox-like person who knows how to protect his or her interests.

9. c To emerge unscathed from something is to come out unharmed, without a scar.

10. d An implication is something not explicitly stated but can be inferred.

11. c (d) is very antitheses of the given context. (b) is a sort of repetition and (a) is extremely negative thus inappropriate.

12. a Obviously `unappreciated' is most appropriate.

13. d It is unlikely that a person will suffer from `megalomania' or `acrophobia' due to stress. `Bulimia' is quite a possibility. J (Yob- (a British slang) a teenage lout or hooligan)

14. c vestiges is appropriate here since the statement is talking about `last ..'.

15. d Since the context is talking about the lost image, `restore' is the best option.

Test 15

1. a It is the best option since the reference in the context is that of suggestion. etiolated - to cause to become weakened or sickly

2. d Gauntlet is thrown. Other options are ruled out.

3. d `Bourgeois' is most appropriate word here. Other words such as `aggressive', `enthusiastic' and `sceptical' do not go with an `audience' which is already `chastened'. `Moderate' is an inappropriate adjective here.

4. d Since the `audience' is `chastened', their being all `beams and bashfulness' is quite acceptable. Other options are absolutely out of context.

5. a This word goes with the context since it hints at the opposite of `beams and bashfulness". `Tenebrific' implies something glum which is too extreme a word to fit in

here. `Turbid' is not appropriate contextually.

6. c `Cowed' is appropriate because `silence' follows.

7. d Since the context is that of the end of the play and talks about the `Russian method', `applauding' is the best option.

8. b `Deprived' is fine in the given context since it is the privilege of the author to applaud.

9. a `Radical' is apt because the context suggests a sweeping innovation.

10. d Only likely thing that the author along with others can take after such an innovative play, is `applause'.

11. d A cold, spiritual wasteland cannot be base, beautiful or busy. The correct word is barren.

12. d A wasteland cannot be departed, outside or demanding mistrust and hatred. The correct word to be used here is rampant which means unrestrained and violent.

13. c A road that is yet to be taken cannot be painted, stormed or surprised. The correct word is forged which means to steadily move ahead.

14. b A sketch, frost or green cannot be inhospitable and untrodden. The correct word is terrain which means a piece of ground having specific characteristics.

15. a A journey that leads to peace and humanism cannot be appalling, infracting or bulky. The correct word is trailblazing which refers to a pioneering or innovative attempt.

Test 16

1. d **Dermatology** is the branch of medicine that is concerned with the physiology and pathology of the skin.

2. d **Endocrinology** is the study of the glands and hormones of the body and their related disorders.

3. d **Oncology** is the branch of medicine that deals with tumors, including study of their development, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

4. a **Epigraphy** is the study of inscriptions.

5. a The context talks about the coexistence because people go for `storage' despite the costs involved. Therefore `reconcile' is the best option.

6. c The context talks about people storing various items, therefore `accumulate' is the best option. `Consume' is not the appropriate word because this does not pertain to storage; whereas `discard' and `dispense' goes against the theme of the passage.

7. d Since the sentence is talking about the `urge' to store and the corresponding act of `selling people stuff'; `limitless' is the best option.

8. a Since the sentence talks about `sharp- eyed coyote' that is a contemptible person, `glowers' will be the most appropriate word in the blank. `Scares' do not fit in as it is grammatically incorrect. `Howls' is a bit far-fetched.

9. c Since the sentence talks about `looming muscle man', `cowering' is most appropriate word to be used here.

10. d Lucrative is the most appropriate option.

11. b By seeing the options only options (b) and (d) would fit in. Enthusiasm can be negated as it does not not go with the tone of the passage.

12. c Through the passage the author is trying to convey that the MFI's have a wider reach that is till the bottom of the pyramid. Hence, (c) is the correct answer.

13. d The best answer would be economic needs as the other three do not relate to the agenda of financial inclusion. Social needs are related to better education or health care facilities.

14. a Intermediaries would fit in as the author is trying to say that MFI's act as a link in the retail supply chain. Hence, (a)

15. b Inevitable means something which is unable to be avoided and feckless refers to something which is ineffective. Hence, (a) and (d) won't fit in. Accessible won't fit as if the products are accessible then there is no need to distribute it. Hence, (b)

Test 17

1. d Like amiable and friendly are synonyms, Passion and zeal are also synonyms.

2. d Animus and malevolence are synonyms, banal and trivial are also synonyms

3. c Tachometer measures speed, similarly Tacheometer measures elevations and distances. Udometer is a rain gauge. Salinometer is used to measure salinity of salts.

4. a The sound dolphins make is click. Turkeys gobble. Wolfs bark. Pigs oink. Hyenas laugh. Lions roar.

5. c the fear of doctors is latrophobia. Fear of hell is stygiophobia. Thanatophobia is fear of death. Fear of disease is pathophobia. Acrophobia is fear of heights. Fear of ghosts is phasmophobia.

6. d A person having pathological religious visions or delusions is a hieromaniac. Ecdemomaniac is a person is a person who has an abnormal compulsion for wandering. One who has an abnormal craving for alcohol is a dipsomaniac. Drapetomaniac is a person who has an intense desire to run away from home. One who has an obsession with owning of furs is a doramaniac. Agromaniac is a person who has an intense desire to be in open spaces. One who has an abnomal fondness for ballets is a balletomaniac. Kleptomaniac has an irrational predilection for stealing.

7. a Kalology is the study of beauty. Kinematics deals with the study of motion. Oikology is the science of housekeeping. Opthalmology is the study of eye diseases. Pyroballogy is the study of artillery. The study of nose is rhinology.

8. b Conchiform is shaped like a shell. Fucoid is the shape of a seaweed. Clavate is club-shaped. Lobular means shaped like a lobe. Oodial is egg-shaped.

9. d Bolar means pertaining to clay. Similarly Loimic means pertaining to plagues. Brumal means of winters. Butryic means of butter. Gestic pertains to gestures.

10. d Habanera and ziganka are dance forms similarly allemande and cakewalk too are danceforms. Abba is a priest. Biretta is a cap worn by the priest.

11. d Acme and nadir are antonyms, similarly luculent and esoteric are antonyms.

12. d Chagrin and delight are opposites so are heterodox and orthodox.

13. a A butcher works in the abattoir, a rabbi is incharge of a synagogue.

14. d A brocken is a stag, culex is a mosquito

15. d Cog is a ship, hoy is a boat.

Test 18

1. c 2. b 3. c 4. c 5. b 6. d 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. d

11. c 12. b 13. b 14. d 15. b

Test 19

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. d 6. d 7. d 8. c

Note: ***In these explanations A represents the first word in the analogy and B represents the second word.***

9. d This is a relationship of intensity with B being a higher intensity form of A. Choice (a) has the same relationship but in reverse order. Choice (d) presents this relationship in the correct order. Choice (b) has words that are synonyms, Choice (c) also has words that are just similar.

10. d "An elegy is a declaration of sorrow". Choices (a), (b) and (c) wrongly mention the emotion being declared. Choice (d) is correct since eulogy is an expression of admiration.

11. d Frieze is a type of ornament used on a wall. "Category relationship - A is a type of B", with the overall context of architecture. Similarly, pillar is a kind of support again used in architecture. Arabesque is a ballet position. This makes Choice (d) correct.

12. c "Despotic behavior is a hallmark of a tyranny". Similarly, being generous is a symbol of liberality. The second word looks at the kind of society.

13. a Ferret means to search out, discover, or bring to light. Similarly unfathomable refers to something which is incomprehensible. Baneful refers to something which is harmful. Vagary refers to an unpredictable or erratic action. Abjure means to renounce or give up.

14. b Illegible (something which is hard to read) and readable are antonyms. Similar relationship is depicted in (b). Excoriate means to berate and extol means to praise. Apothecary is a druggist. Vertigo is the dizziness caused by heights. Wallop means to beat.

15. c Aerophobia is the fear of air. Similarly Ochlophobia is the fear of crowd. Genophobia is the fear of birth. Toxicophobia is the fear of poison. Peniophobia is the fear of poverty.

Test 20

1. b Looking at the stem pair, the relationship can be deciphered as second word being an expression of the first word (cowering is an expression of fear). Out of the options present, (b) clearly displays the same relationship.

2. c This relationship can be interpreted as "the first word is an organism that leads to the process (second word)" (bacteria causes decomposition). Between (b) and (c) (both have organisms as the first word), (c) represents the relationship correctly.

3. d The stem pair relationship here is "the first word is an action that satisfies the condition of the second word". Options (a) and (d) state a condition as the second word and only these should be considered. Hunger is satiated, makes (d) correct.

4. d A foible is a minor fault and this is a relationship of degrees. Out of the options provided, (d) fits in best. Choice (a) is incorrect as perjury is lying under testimony; there is no relationship of degrees. Choice (b) are a set of antonyms, choice (c) has an unrelated pair.

5. a The relationship is the first word is an excessive way of doing the second word - importune means "To beset with insistent or repeated requests". similarly, prying is an excessive way of enquiring. This makes Choice (a) correct.

6. d Daguerrotype is an old method of creating photographs. Similarly, musket is a kind of firearm. This is a category relationship. This makes Choice (d) correct.

7. d Looking at the stem pair, the relationship can be stated as "Anything that is indistinguishable causes one to be confounded" - Quality and Action relationship. Choice (d) is the best representation of this where "anything that is an equivalent of something can be interchanged".

8. b The relationship between the stem pair is that the first word is an artificial form of the seoncd word. Among the answer choices given, Choice (b) best represents this.

9. d In this case, the relationship between the stem pair words is that the first word is an evolved version of the second word. A rookie becomes a professional after experience. Among the answer choices, choice (d) best represents this.

10. d This is a relationship of opposites - "the first word is an object that does not perform the action represented by the second word". Also here, the property mentioned in the first word impacts the "action that cannot be performed". This makes Choice (d) correct.

11. d The second word is what the philosophy in the first word effectively opposes therefore (d) is the correct option.

12. a The first word is the tendency to be or do something and the second word is being or doing that. Therefore (a) is the correct option

13. b The first word is the opposite of the second. This relationship is only present in option (b).

14. c The second word is a humorous version of the first word. Option (a) can not be the answer because a satire also implies humour and therefore satire and lampoon would be synonyms. Option (b) presents the reverse order.

15. d

Test 21

1. d Beret is a type of hat, clogs are a type of shoes.

2. d Like schnauzer is a breed of dog, sidewinder is a type of snake.

3. d Tweezers are the tool used by manicurists, mandrels are used by jewellers.

4. c Apologue is a fable, similarly monody is a poem.

5. d Like amortization is a term pertaining to finance, doggerel is a term pertaining to literature.

6. d Sacriligeios and impious are synonyms, nubile and voluptuous are synonyms.

7. d Weariless is indefatigable similarly, judicious is sagacious.

8. d disperse and congregate are antonyms so are pacific and turbulent.

9. d Obdurate and obsequious are antonyms so are loquacious and taciturn.

10. d *Ornithology* is the study of birds. Similarly *acoustics* is the study of sound. Cosmology is the study of universe. *Organics* is characteristic of, pertaining to, or derived from living organisms.

11. c *Conscientious* refers to someone who is meticulous or careful. Similarly *rookie* refers to a raw recruit or a tyro (beginner). *Meretricious* refers to something which is alluring by a show of flashy or vulgar attractions. *Intrepid* refers to someone who is fearless.

12. a A nonstandard or ungrammatical usage is referred to as *solecism*. *Idiosyncrasy* is a characteristic, habit, mannerism, or the like, that is peculiar to an individual. *Extirpate* means to remove or destroy totally. *Expurgate* means to amend by removing words, passages, etc., deemed offensive or objectionable.

13. a *Ferret* means to search or discover. *Fetter* is a chain or shackle placed on the feet. A *ferule* is a rod, cane, or flat piece of wood for punishing children, especially by striking them on the hand. *Recalcitrant* refers to someone who is not obedient or compliant.

14. a As there is depreciation of an asset similarly there is devaluation of a currency. *Demagogue* is a person, especially an orator or political leader, who gains power and popularity by arousing the emotions, passions, and prejudices of the people.

Test 22

1. a 2. d 3. a 4. d 5. c 6. a 7. a 8. b 9. b 10. b

11. b 12. a 13. d 14. a 15. b

Test 23

1. b `Blatant' is appropriate in the given context because it has a negative tone to it that `obvious' doesn't have.

2. a Since `depredations' goes well with `to undermine...'.

3. c Since shock can get dissipated and it also goes with `somewhat' better than `decreased'.

4. b Since the statement is talking about the `affirmation of creative power', the vanquished should also be in abstract terms. Therefore vandalism is the most appropriate option.

5. d Since the sentence talks about `turning urban spaces' into something more friendly and colourful, `decayed' will be the most appropriate option.

6. a `Vagaries' is the correct word. Other options do not fit in.

7. a The person concerned has obviously shown many or innumerable rather than definite, finite or fickle seeds of happiness.

8. d One cannot help another in a capricious, erratic or impulsive manner.

9. b If his behaviour is refreshingly different, then the answer cannot be philanthropic, magnetic or magnanimous.

10. a A whole new arena opened or unfolded before them. It could not have pitched, canted or tilted.

11. c The needed word must correspond with the second phrase — `unlimited possibilities'. `Dynamic' is therefore the best among the given options. And since anticipation is there, it cannot be unexpected.

12. c 13. d 14. a 15. d

Test 24

1. a Liaison is the most appropriate of the given options. It means a connection maintained by communication between units or groups.

2. c A flurry of footsteps is a rapid bustling commotion caused by hurried motion.

3. d A simple error can be a typographical error that occurs while typing and printing. Iniquitous means wicked or sinful; The sentence here doesn't talk of any thing negative or sinful. Tangible means something that's touchable, concrete and real; spurious refers to something that's fake, false or bogus.

4. b A look cannot be obtuse, renowned or dire. Obtuse means simple-minded or dull-witted; renowned means famous; dire means terrible or dreadful. A look can however, be dubious. A dubious look is a look fraught with uncertainty or doubt.

5. d Conformity means compliance with traditional or orthodox values. An association cannot demand rigid martyr, catastrophe, or manipulation from its members.

6. c A suitable adverb is needed to go with the verb `painted'. Vague, grandiose and jeremiad are not adverbs. Vague is something that's ambiguous or unclear; grandiose means ostentatious or extravagant; a jeremiad is a long, mournful complaint. The best option is `vividly' (an adverb) which means `brightly' or `vibrantly'.

7. a If the people were of Indian origin, they would not tragically hate something that's Indian. They can also not `devour' or `grab' a flavour. The best option, therefore, is `nostalgically savoured'. Nostalgia refers to yearning for the past; to savour something is to relish or enjoy it.

8. b The military cannot take an uncompromising `idiom'.A person can be weedy but a feeling cannot be `weedy'. An uprising cannot be a feeling. The best choice is, therefore, option (b) because a feeling can be pervasive and a stance can be uncompromising. A pervasive feeling is an all-encompassing, omni-present feeling; an uncompromising stance is a rigid decision or stand on a particular issue.

9. b If option (a), (c), or (d) is used then `people' would definitely not `grow as human beings'! Only option (b) suits the question statement. Renewed means new, improved, or transformed and vigour refers to energy, drive, or dynamism.

10. a Banging and beating cannot be good-natured and neither can be used to relax tension. Behaviour can be good-natured but tension cannot bully a room. Option (a) is then the best choice. Ribbing refers to playful joking and leg-pulling; to permeate means to fill, to pervade or to infuse.

11. a 12. c 13. c 14. d 15. d

Test 25

1. c Contextually `rescinded' will be the most appropriate option since the statement talks about `after a change in control' and `deter ..'.

2. d Since `the theme' as mentioned in the sentence talks about `aircraft wings carved in marble, translucently thin.' which points towards the `fragility'.

3. a `Unravelling' means `to undo'.

4. c Plausible means seemingly worthy of approval or acceptance and it fits the context. Feasible implies probable or suitable but it lacks the tone of `worthiness'.

5. d Pragmatic is a better option as compared to sensible since the sentence talks about `guide to policies'. C & D options can describe personalities rather than a report. A is ruled out because I does not fit the context.

6. a A means `in essence', whereas `essentially' has a different connotation. `Amazingly' adds an element of surprise which is deemed incorrect in the given context since it talks about something that has been observed over a long period of time.

7. d D is an appropriate option because it talks about `undisguised tongue in cheek' which implies an indirect comment regarding the `colonial arrogance' that `suffused' the British exploits. The word `suffused' adds an attitude to the `British exploits'.

8. a `Conjuring' means to effect, produce, bring, etc., by or as by magic. Begging is incorrect because it should be followed by `for'. Rest of the options are not appropriate as

per the context.

9. d Here `punctiliously' implies `conscientiously' and in the statement there is a tinge of preaching or moralizing making it the most appropriate option.

10. a A is the right option since it implies `punishment or retribution' which is appropriate in the given context.

11. a 12. b 13. a 14. a 15. b

Test 26

1. a Both words are appropriate according to the context.

2. b For the first blank `demeanor' is the appropriate option because it implies `conduct' or `disposition'; since the statement talks about `one departure' which in this case is the only departure and `justified' as well `culminating' is the best option.

3. c `Foully' suggests `appropriated' and `contemplate' is appropriate for the second blank since it suggests another choice for the gross person who has wronged the author.

4. a Contextually both the words fit in the given blanks.

5. a `Bask' goes with garden and serenity and `energy and hospitality' most likely will lead to `revel' and `enthrall'.

6. b `Sprouted' goes well with `soil' and since the growth is `natural', it has a few `impediments'.

7. d These two words are obviously the best fit contextually.

8. d Since the context talks about `hype', `conflagration' is the most appropriate option for the second blank because unless controlled `hype' can keep building up. And a `conflagration' has to be doused or else it will engulf more and more areas.

9. c Stubborn and steely go together in the given context.

10. a `Cosy' goes with the first option in (a),(b) and (c) but in the second blank only galloping and lucrative fit in thus making (a) as the most appropriate option.

11. c 12. d 13. c 14. d 15. c

Test 27

1. b Since he is not `unmindful' of the `importance', vanity is suitable and since the recital is honest `incidental' fits in.

2. c Pretentious means `ostentatious', which is appropriate in the given context and `appurtenances' also goes into the second blank.

3. d Both the options are appropriate whereas in other cases only first or the second choice fits in. Funnel is use in a figurative sense out here.

4. a As far as the first blank is concerned (a) and (b) fit in but (c) doesn't because `terrific' is a positive word and does not go with `wobbly'; but in the second blank `executed' and `restored' only fit in thereby making (a) as the most appropriate option.

5. d Wind cannot be balmy though a breeze can be. Wind can be incessant, devilish and strong; and since the accounts of migrants reveal a more then `sinister' is the most appropriate word.

6. a Contextually both words in A fit in. First word of C is appropriate but the second word isn't because a burrow can be claustrophobic but romantic is a bit too far fetched.

7. c `Clump' is appropriate because it means `mass' and `belching' goes with chimney.

8. b `Splice' (to join) and `besieged' fit in; since the Israeli settlements are ever-expanding.

9. b As far as the first blank is concerned A, B & D fit in but in the second blank only B fits.

10. c Both the words are contextually appropriate.

11. d In the second blank the second words of C and D both fit in because the sentence is talking about the effects of globalisation on the American workers. But in the first blank only `gnashing' fits in because it means to strike together, as in anger or pain and at the same time it goes with `wailing' perfectly.

12. c Option (a) is incorrect because the sentence is talking about `despite the ..', therefore the regulations cannot be `excellent'. (b) is incorrect because though `tedious' is correct, `patrons' does not make any sense in the given context. (c) is appropriate because the sentence talks about prosperity `despite', making `onerous' an appropriate option for the first blank and in the second blank `legions' (multitude) is a perfect fit because it is opposite of `minority' in the given context. The second word of the option (d) is not appropriate according to the context.

13. b The sentence is talking about the `escape' that Mr Cowen made which makes `with or without protocols' appropriate and `shibboleths' fits in the second blank because the other words i.e. `abortion' and `neutrality' pertain to a particular group that is `irish law'. This makes `shibboleths' (A word or phrase identified with a particular group or cause) appropriate. The first word of (d) fit in but not the second word.

14. b

15. d In the given context `ameliorates' and `alleviates' do not make a sense. `Amerces' means to punish which makes an absolute sense but `degrades' doesn't make a sense because `bad' cannot be degraded. Similarly `bad' cannot be denigrated; but it can be `vindicated' or `exculpated'. `Canonizes' also makes a sense. Thus Option (d) is appropriate.

Test 28

1. b In the first blank the first words of (a), (b), (c) and (d) fit in but in the second blank only `glinting' and somewhat `dancing' fit in thus making (b) the most appropriate option.

2. d The words that fit in the first blank are `eventful' and `eclectic'; but in the second blank `retributive' doesn't fit in though `nostalgic' does.

3. d If it is a `cold glitter' it cannot be `warmth'. Grammatically `despise' is inappropriate. Therefore we are left with (b), (c) and (d). In the second blank `sleepy' snd `tedious' are inappropriate because `winks' doesn't go with these two words. "Sundry' is fine because it means `various'.

4. b `Poignantly' goes with `moving' in the given context and `tremulous' goes with `murmur'.

5. a The first words of both (a) & (c) go in the first blank since readers are able to experience whatever the writer's experiences are; but in the second blank `trauma' doesn't fit in, though `lament' does.

6. c In the second blank only `analogy' fits in which makes (c) correct.

7. d Since the statement is talking about a particular type of philosophical movement, `dominant' is the best choice and in the second blank `iconoclast' is quite appropriate.

8. c In the first blank `conscripts' fit in since the statement is referring to the slave labour. And `desensitized' is appropriate in the second blank.

9. d Since a contrast is being drawn in the sentence (d) is the most appropriate option.

10. a A haute couture- high fashion. Suo motu, meaning "on its own motion".

Au re-voir- until we see each other again. Au fait- expert.

11. d The two blanks have to be of the same degree. The sentence is one where the blanks have to be of the "apposition and reiteration" type. Also, the last part of the sentence is `as long as possible'. This is not used for a positive statement. Choice (b) might seem appropriate keeping that in mind, but denouncing a war and then denying it do not seem appropriate since the sentence talks about royalty. They would be more powerful than that. Choice (d) mentions `avoid' and `postpone'. This is more proactive and fits in well with both words indicating negativity.

12. d From reading the sentence, you can classify it as one of "cause". The scenario in the first part leads to the second part of the sentence. Also, the link word in the sentence is "despite" which indicates opposition. So, the first blank would be filled with a word that weakens the value of the huge research. Choices A, B and C can be eliminated based on the first word itself. Applicable fit in the first blank. Now, as for the second blank - the effect of a scenario where a purported solution has been found to be inadequate is to lead to a second solution. Warranted (called for) establishes the cause-effect relationship. This makes (d) correct.

13. c This sentence is of the kind where the blank demands the use of a word that would contrast with the last part of the sentence. There are other clues too - "harmonious wholeness" created from the "conflicting elements of her life". You are looking for a word of the positive degree and choice (d) is eliminated. Out of the other options, you should pinpoint the word that presents the meaning of "creating harmony out of conflict". Reconciled fits in best here and this makes (c) correct.

14. a The sentence is talking about a person, notice the use of "either....or" which indicates contrast. This means the first sentence will use a word that indicates `everyone has opinions about Stephen'. Choice (a) presents a first word that would be best used here, also Choice (d) provides a word that might fit in. The decision about the final answer choice would depend upon the second word. The sentence mentions one part of emotions provoked by Stephens as adulatory, the second contrasting emotion would be negative. `Consternation' means "A state of paralyzing dismay", whereas `antipathy' in Choice (a) is a clear negative emotion. This makes Choice (a) correct.

15. a The important link words in this sentence are "despite" and "nevertheless". The sentence is highlighting opposition and mentions how the usual relationship between the labour union and the company management is one of antagonism, but the blank represents a surprising event keeping this in mind. Choices (b), (c) and (d) are eliminated since they mention words with a negative connotation and in this case we are looking for a word with a positive charge. Choice (a) is correct.

Test 29

1. a 2. d 3. b 4. d 5. d 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. b 10. c 11. c 12. b

13. d This is a contrast sentence where the expected reaction of "inflamed indignation" does not take place, but the author shows "detachment...". Choice (a) is incorrect since "railing at" means opposing (detachment). Choice (b) also has a negative second word. Choice (c) is eliminated because it would show the author as expressing indignation and the second blank would represent him as adhering to a divergent view as well. This is contradictory. Choice (d) fits in best.

14. c Encompasses means " to include comprehensively" . Exude is " to project or display". Assess is "to evaluate or judge the value of something". Collaboration is "the act of working jointly with others". The answer is (c).

15. a Since the sentence indicates that the budget will be planned based on income and savings goals - these have to be of a current nature and not planned or estimated. Logic has to be used in this context to establish the answer as option (a).

Test 30

1. c Necessitate means "to make necessary or unavoidable". The sentence indicates a budget cut and so the context would be a forced reduction. Option (c) fits in best in this context.

2. d Abet means "to encourage or support usually in wrongdoing". Spur and stimulate both mean " to urge to action or achievement". Polarization means " to divide into sharply opposing factions". Disinvestment is " the withdrawal of invested fund" and privatization is " to transfer from the public sector of an economy into private ownership". The reforms mentioned at the beginning of the sentence indicate a positive move and so privatization fits in best in the context of the sentence. The answer is (d).

3. c Postulate means "to demand or claim, even to assert". Gamble on is "to take a risk". Conduits are "a pipe or tube for conveying water or other fluid". Avenues "are a means of access or attainment" and this fits in best into the second blank. The answer is (c).

4. b Reflection means "careful consideration". Simulation means "imitation or enactment, as of something anticipated". This fits in best with the context of role-playing. Fabrication means "to fake". Tactfully means " Aggressively means "making an all-out effort to win or succeed". The answer is (b).

5. d The sentence is the opinion of an expert on modern painting.. the first word in all the options fit.. the person might be talking of the aim, core feature or flaw of modern painting.

(a) is obviously incorrect as one cannot "delineate" or outline " all references to the visible world"

(b)is incorrect as the second word "refute" does not fit.. one refutes charges, but one cannot refute references to the visible world".

(c) and (d) are close..Though the first words in the options are opposites, they both can work depending on whether the author is praising or criticizing modern painting.

Here one has to choose between extirpating, which means uprooting or expunging, which means erasing... Since we are talking of references to the visible world-- to erase or rub out all references fits perfectly. hence (d)

6. b Ostentatious means showy, something that is intended to impress others.. does not fit in this context.(a) is therefore incorrect.

(b) is the correct option.. both the words fit perfectly.. the reason that they pretended to have the meeting - the ostensible reason- one which appears to be the reason- was the budget- but the real reason was something else.. Ruse means a trick to hide one's real intentions.

The ostensible reason for the meeting was to review the budget, but the whole thing was really just a ruse to get him to the surprise party.

7. d Only (d) has both words fitting in the blanks to make a sensible sentence.

A ubiquitous journalist need not be hypocritical... a raucous journalist(an awkward adjective in the context).. cannot thrive on political circumspection(caution)- the sentence does not make sense minatory means menacing.. does not fit in with the second word.

Only (d) makes sense-- the unctuous(ingratiating, flattering, oily) journalists depend and thrive on political patronage or support.

8. c Option (a) has pennant in the second blank.Pennant means ' flag like' and so does not fit in.Option (b) has 'aromatically' in the second blank which is also incorrect as it needs a verb with it.. Option (d) has pennon in the second blank. Pennon means a long narrow banner and so is incorrect.

9. b Options (a) has bemused in the first blank .Bemused means- not sure/surprised/taken aback and so does not fit in Curlicueing means curling up. In option (c) entranced is wrong because one needs to be entranced by something.Whorling means to take a coiled form. Option (d) is wrong.

10. a Options (b), (c) and (d) can be eliminated because of the second word in each option. Knotty,snarly, convoluted mean something not straight. Hence option (a).

11. b Option (a) is incorrect because of 'political'. Not all alliances are political.Atomize means to separate out into the different components or atoms. Option (c) has methdical which is also incorrect. Deliquesce means something that melts away. In option (d) dilapidate is wrong because the word is used for run down buildings, machinery, houses etc. Hence option (b) .

12. d Option (a) is incorrect because of embellishes which has connotations of decorating. In option (b) aggrandizing means increase the power and scope. A good teacher enhances a students skill but not aggrandizes him.In option (c) influential is not correct because we do not know how much influence the study wields. So the correct option is (d).

13. a Option (a) is the correct one because one denies allegations not avowals ,asservations and tales. Avowal means to take or repeat a vow.Asservation means the act of recognizing the truth. Chastised in option (b) is also not correct as one chastises or scolds a child.

14. b Option (b) is correct because myths are fostered -not allegory, illusions, delusions and parables.Allegory means a parallel between two things. It is an extended metaphor.Delusion is a false assumption. Option (c) is incorrect because of Validated. We do not know if the columns are validated.

15. d The sentence is conveying the sense of a paradoxical situation- that for honesty to exist it needs a honest environment .Options (a) is incorrect because of the word aura.in the second blank. Faces have an aura. Anamoly means something out of place or incorrect.In option (b) domain will not go with the article an. In option (c) both the words are incorrect.

Test 31

1. a 2. c

3. b maser is an amplifier, mazer is a large cup. Ordinance is a law or rule, ordnance is weapons. Pendant is an ornament, pendent here is pending or undecided. Rye is a plant (remember `Catcher in the Rye' by J.D. Salinger), wry is ironic. Scarf is a garment, scarph stands for ship building.

4. c amendment here means reform, emendment is textually altering something. Corporeal means physical, tangible, corporal means personal. Farther here means to a greater degree. Gentle here means gradual, genteel is polished, refined, well-bred. Mete means to deliver.

5. a accessory is accompaniment, accessary means accomplice in crime. Disinterested here means impartial, uninterested means not interested. Quite is to a considerable extent, quiet is calm. `give full rein' is the correct expression to use here; it means complete freedom. Veracity is truthfulness, voracity is greed.

6. b sears means to turn someone nonchalant, seer is a person who predicts future. Cavalry is a mountain brigade, calvary is suffering due to mental turbulence. Bullish means optimistic, bullion is the valuation of gold and silver according to their weight eg (24 carats). Unexceptional is devoid of any brilliance, unexceptionable is beyond criticism. Simulation is similarity or pretence, dissimulation is disguising or concealing.

7. d whetting means to sharpen or increase. Racquet is a game, racket is a loud noise. Faille is a ribbed fabric of silk or lightweight taffeta. Deposed here means to exmine under oath, disposed means inclination. Apatite is a mineral whereas appetite is a desire.

8. d Allude means to make a casual reference, elude means to escape. Gilding the lily is the correct expression to use here, it means proving satisfactory. Barred is to stop, bard is a poet. Coffers are the treasuries. Eminent is famous, imminent means likely to happen anytime.

9. d savor means taste or smell, saver means to save or prevent something. Guyed stands for jeering. Impassable means unfit for circulation, impassible means unable to bear pain. Envelope is a covering containing letters etc. Envelop means to surround. Lieder is a collection of songs, litter means scattered or young ones of animals.

10. c boullion is chicken stew, bullion is gold or silver considered in mass rather than in value. Borough is a town smaller than a county, burrow is a shelter or retreat. Calix is a chalice, calyx is the outermost part of a plant, a sephal. Bawd is a prostitute, baud is a unit to measure data transfer. Acclamation is cheering, acclimation is to adapt.

11. d Aide is a helper, aid is help. Deprave is to morally corrupt or make someone evil, deprive is to withold or remove. Illicit is unlawful, elicit is to evoke. Hoary is full of frost, whory is related to prostitutes. Here lone would fit as we are talking of a campaigner who was alone in his cause.

12. b Loupe is a magnifying glass. Luting means to perform on a lute, looting stands for robbing. Marquee is a tall roof-like shelter, marquis is a nobleman below a duke an above a count. Pinion is a feather, pinon is an edible nut. Rigor is harshness, rigger is a person who mends the rigging of ships.

13. a a roiled is to vex or annoy someone, royaled is to make someone feel great. Ruse is a trick or a planned disguise, rues is remorse or regret. Psalter is the biblical book of Psalms, salter is a person making or selling salt. Phase is an aspect, faze is to disconcert someone.

14. a Carat is a unit of weight measuring pearls and precious stones and karat is a unit of fineness for gold, equal to 1/24 of the total amount of pure gold in an alloy. Hence, (A) is the apt choice. Squib is a short news item often of a satiric nature, sometimes used as a filler on a newspaper page and squid is any of a number of sea animals with ten arms characterized by a long body and a caudal fin. Hence (A) would fit in. Sleave means to separate something into fine filaments and sleeve is a part of a piece of clothing designed to cover each arm of the wearer. Hence, (B) is the correct choice. Tinge means to change or modify to a slight degree typically in reference to color and twinge is a sharp localized pain which may be either physical or moral. Hence (A) would fit in.

Croquet is a lawn game using mallets, wooden balls, and wickets and croquette is a fried mass of mince (chopped) meat, fish, and/or vegetables. Hence, (B) is the correct choice.

15. b Decree is an official order, edict, or decision; as of a church, government, or court and decry is to condemn or depreciate by proclamation. Hence (A) would be an apt choice. Endemic is something which is native to a particular locale or region and epidemic means very prevalent in a specific area. Hence, (A) would fit in. Ferrule is usually a metal ring or cap that is placed around the end of a wooden stick or handle to strengthen it and

a count. Pinion is a feather, pinon is an edible nut. Rigor is harshness, rigger is a person who mends the rigging of ships.

13. a a roiled is to vex or annoy someone, royaled is to make someone feel great. Ruse is a trick or a planned disguise, rues is remorse or regret. Psalter is the biblical book of Psalms, salter is a person making or selling salt. Phase is an aspect, faze is to disconcert someone.

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Croquet is a lawn game using mallets, wooden balls, and wickets and croquette is a fried mass of mince (chopped) meat, fish, and/or vegetables. Hence, (B) is the correct choice.

15. b Decree is an official order, edict, or decision; as of a church, government, or court and decry is to condemn or depreciate by proclamation. Hence (A) would be an apt choice. Endemic is something which is native to a particular locale or region and epidemic means very prevalent in a specific area. Hence, (A) would fit in. Ferrule is usually a metal ring or cap that is placed around the end of a wooden stick or handle to strengthen it and ferule is a rod or ruler used in punishing children. Hence, (A) is the correct choice. Barbell is a metal bar with weights at each end that is used for exercise and in weight lifting and barbel is one of the soft thread-like appendages to the jaws, chin, or nostrils of certain fish; functioning as an organ of touch. Hence, (A) is the apprpriate choice. Garret is a small space under the roof of a building; sometimes used for storage or converted into a place for human occupancy and garrote is a method of execution formerly practiced in Spain, in which a tightened iron collar was used to strangle or to break the neck of a condemned person. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

Test 32

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. b 10. b

11. c 12. d 13. d 14. b 15. a

Test 33

1. H 2. D 3. J 4. I 5. B 6. C 7. E 8. F 9. G 10. A

11. E 12. F 13. H 14. I 15. B 16. J 17. C 18. D 19. G 20. A

Test 34

1. b Since `sparsely' goes with the context which emphasizes on `ordinariness'.

2. a The statement is talking about the decoration part of Khan's attire.

3. d Since basil can only be aromatic. None of the other options are appropriate.

4. d Contextually `delirious' is the most appropriate word since it means wild with excitement, enthusiasm, etc.

5. a Option (a) is the correct choice.

6. d (b) and (c) options do not make any sense in the given context. Option (a) is also incorrect because engaging birds do not make any sense.

7. a Other options do not go with the given context.

8. c Formidable deployment can only `prevent demonstrators'.

9. a Riposte means retaliation therefore it is an appropriate word. Other words are contextually inappropriate.

10. d Paean means any song of praise, joy, or triumph

11. b AAAAA

`Enormity' (A) means a quality of momentous importance or impact whereas `enormousness' (B) means marked by extraordinarily great size, number. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Extant' (A) means in existence; still existing; not destroyed or lost, whereas `extent' (B) means the space or degree to which a thing extends. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Exulted' (A) means to show or feel a lively or triumphant joy, `exalted' (B) means raised or elevated, as in rank or character, so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Especially' is used to single out one person or thing over all others; to show a great extent whereas `specially' means for a special purpose. There is some overlap in the uses of *especially* and *specially*. In the broadest terms, both words mean `particularly' and the preference for one word over the other is linked with particular conventions of use rather than with any deep difference in meaning. For example, there is little to choose between *written* ***especially*** *for Jonathan*; and *written* ***specially*** *for Jonathan*; and neither is more correct than the other. On the other hand, in sentences such as `The manager despised them all, especially Nandita' substitution of *specially* is found in informal uses but should not be used in written English, while in `the car was ***specially*** made for the occasion'substitution of *especially* is somewhat unusual. `Aid' (A) means help or support; assistance whereas `aide' (B) means an assistant or helper, especially a confidential one. So, (A) will be the correct choice.

12. d ABBAA

`Expeditious' (A) means done or achieved with speed and efficiency whereas `expedient' (B) means conducive to advantage or interest; practical and possible. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Canvas' (A) refers to a piece of this or similar material on

which a painting is made, whereas `canvass' (B) means to solicit votes, subscriptions, opinions; try to obtain support. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Venal' (A) means able to be purchased, as by a bribe, `venial' (B) means excusable; trifling, so (B) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Forbear' (verb) means to stop yourself from saying or doing something that you could or would like to say or do <He wanted to answer back, but he forbore from doing so>.`Forebear' (B) means a person in your family who lived a long time ago; ancestor. So (A) is apt. `Juncture' means a particular point or stage in an activity or a series of events battle had reached a crucial juncture>. `Junction' means a place where two or more cables, rivers or other things meet or are joined. So (A) is apt.

13. a ABAAB

`Grisly' (A) means causing a shudder or feeling of horror; horrible; gruesome whereas `gristly' (B) means resembling or containing gristle. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Healthful' (A) means conducive to health; wholesome or salutary, whereas `healthy' (B) means possessing or enjoying good health or a sound and vigorous mentality. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Emigrated' (A) means to leave one country or region to settle in another, `immigrated' (B) means to come to a country of which one is not a native, so (A) will be better fit for the third sentence. `Incredible' (A) means impossible to believe as opposed to `incredulous' (B) which means of a person or their manner) unwilling or unable to believe. So only (A) can fit here. `Aggravates' (A) means `to make heavier; make (a problem, injury, or offence) worse or more serious. `Irritates' means to excite to impatience or anger; annoy. So, (B) will be a better choice for this sentence.

14. c BBAAA

`Indeterminate' (A) means not determinate; not precisely fixed in extent; indefinite; uncertain whereas `indeterminable' (B) means not determinable; incapable of being ascertained. So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Incidence' (A) means the extent to which something happens or has an effect < an area with a high incidence of crime> whereas `incidents' (B) means something that happens; a serious or violent event, such as a crime, an accident or an attack. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Indict' (A) means to charge with an offense or crime, `indite' (B) means to put down in writing, so (A) will be better fit for the third sentence. `Inflicted' (A) means to make somebody/something suffer something unpleasant casualties were inflicted on the enemy.> whereas `afflicted' (B) means to affect somebody/something in an unpleasant or harmful way drought has afflicted the region>. So only (A) can fit here. `Anxious' (B) means full of mental distress or uneasiness because of fear of danger or misfortune; greatly worried; solicitous. `Eager' (A) means very interested and excited by something that is going to happen or about something that you want to do. `Anxious' (B) should be used only when its subject is worried or uneasy about the anticipated event. So (A) will be the more appropriate choice.

15. b BBBAB

`Ingenuous' (A) means free from reserve, restraint, or dissimulation; candid; sincere whereas `ingenious' (B) means characterized by cleverness or originality of invention or construction. So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Insidious' (A) means spreading gradually or without being noticed, but causing serious harm <the insidious

effects of polluted water supplies> whereas `invidious' (B) means unpleasant and unfair; likely to offend somebody or make them jealous were in the invidious position of having to choose whether to break the law or risk lives>. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Intense' (A) means existing or occurring in a high or extreme degree, `intensive' (B) means involving a lot of work or activity done in a short time; complete; comprehensive, so (B) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Laudable' (A) means deserving praise as opposed to `laudatory' (B) which means containing or expressing praise. So only (A) can fit here. The noun `chord' (A) is a musical term (two or more notes sounded together); `chord' also refers to an emotion or disposition ("a responsive chord"). The noun `cord' (B) refers to a rope or a bond, an insulated electrical cable, or an anatomical structure (vocal cords), also used for trousers/pants of cords>. So (B) will be a better fit here.

Test 35

1. c BAABA

`Loath' (A) is an adjective which means unwilling; reluctant; disinclined <He was loath to admit his mistake> whereas `loathe' somebody (B) means to hate somebody. So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Pedaled' (A) refers to work or use the pedals, whereas `peddled' something means to try to sell goods by going from house to house or from place to place worked as a door-to-door salesman peddling cloths and brushes>; to spread an idea or story in order to get people to accept it peddle malicious gossip>. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Persecute' somebody (A) means to treat somebody in a cruel and unfair way, especially because of their race, religion or political beliefs history, people have been persecuted for their religious beliefs> minorities>, `prosecute' (B) means to institute legal proceedings against (a person), so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Personnel' (A) means a body of persons employed in an organization or place of work as opposed to `personal' (B) which means of, pertaining to, or coming as from a particular person; individual; private. So only (B) can fit here. The adverb `subsequently' (A) means *next*—following in time, order, or place. `Consequently' (B) is a conjunctive adverb that means *as a result*. So (A) will be a better fit here.

2. d AAAAA

`Poring' (A) means to read or study with steady attention or application whereas `pouring' (B) means to send (a liquid, fluid, or anything in loose particles) flowing or falling. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Faucet' (A) is a device that controls the flow of water from a pipe, `facet' (B) is a particular part or aspect of something, so (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Ignorant' (A) means lacking in knowledge or training; unlearned, `ignoring' (B) means to refrain from noticing or recognizing, so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Pray' (A) means to offer devout petition, praise, thanks, etc., to (God or an object of worship) and `*pray over something*' means to say grace over a meal. To `prey' (B) means an animal hunted or seized for food, especially by a carnivorous animal. So only (A) can fit here. The noun `prognosis' (A) means a forecast or prediction. The noun `diagnosis' (B) refers to the process of analyzing information to understand or explain something. So (A) will be a better fit here.

3. c BBAAA

`Precedence' (A) means the fact of preceding in time; antedating whereas `precedent' (B) means any act, decision, or case that serves as a guide or justification for subsequent situations. So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Prophecy' (A) is a noun and it means a statement that something will happen in the future, especially one made by somebody with religious or magic powers whereas `prophesy' (B) is a verb (it means to make a prophecy). So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Purposely' (A) means intentionally; deliberately whereas `purposefully' (B) means with determination; so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Roll' (A) means a list, register, or catalog, especially one containing the names of the persons belonging to a company, class, society, etc as opposed to `role' (B) which means a part or character played by an actor or actress. So only (A) can fit here. The adjective `distinct' (A) means clearly defined and readily distinguishable from all others. `Distinct' also means notable or highly probable. `Distinctive' (B) means having a quality or characteristic that makes something different and easily noticed. So, (A) will be a better fit here.

4. a BBAAB

`Simple' (A) means not elaborate, easy to understand, deal with whereas `simplistic' (B) is derogatory and means making a problem, situation, etc. seem less difficult or complicated than it really is; oversimplified <His interpretation of the figures is far too simplistic>. So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Scrimp' (A) as an adjective means meager, scanty. *To scrimp* is to be sparing with or thrifty; to save slowly and with difficulty whereas `skimp' (B) means to try to spend less time, money, etc. on something than is really needed <Older people should not skimp on food or heating>. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Racked' (A) means to strain in mental effort, `wrecked' (B) means to cause the ruin or destruction of, so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Trooper' (A) is used in the idiom `like a trooper', which means with great energy, enthusiasm as opposed to `trouper' (A) which means an actor, especially a member of a touring company. So only (A) can fit here. An `epigraph' (A) is a brief quotation set at the beginning of a text (a book, a chapter of a book, an essay, a poem) to suggest its theme. An `epigram' (B) is a brief, witty statement in prose or verse—similar to an aphorism. So (B) is the right option.

5. a BAABB

`Turgid' (A) means boring, complicated and difficult to understand <turgid prose>; swollen; containing more water than usual turgid waters of the Thames> whereas `turbid' (B) means muddy; not clear or transparent because of stirred-up sediment; clouded. So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Torturous' (A) refers to, involving, or causing torture or suffering, whereas `tortuous' (B) means full of twists, turns, or bends; twisting, winding, or crooked. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence (due to the word endured). `Disperse' (A) means to drive or send off in various directions; scatter, `disburse' (B) means to pay out (money), especially for expenses; expend funds were to be disbursed in two installments> so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Unexceptionable' (A) means not offering any basis for exception or objection; beyond criticism as opposed to `unexceptional' (B) which means not exceptional; not unusual or extraordinary. So only (B) can fit here. The verb `invoke' (A) means to mention a person, a theory, an example, etc. to support your opinions or ideas, or as a reason for something or to summon with incantations invoked several eminent scholars to back up her argument>. The verb `evoke' (B) means to bring a feeling, a memory or an image into

your mind music evoked memories of her youth> case is unlikely to evoke public sympathy>. So, (B) will be the correct option.

6. d ABABA

`Jibe' (A) means to be in harmony or accord; agree whereas `gibe' (B) means to utter mocking or scoffing words; jeer. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Waver' (A) means to sway to and fro; flutter, whereas `waiver' (B) means an intentional relinquishment of some right, interest, or the like. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Imperious' (A) means domineering in a haughty manner; dictatorial; overbearing whereas `impervious' (B) means not permitting penetration or passage; impenetrable <an impervious rock/layer>;not affected or influenced by something to criticism/pain> so (A) is the correct choice. `Dribble' (A) means to fall or flow in drops or small quantities; trickle as opposed to `drivel' (B) which is a noun and means silly and nonsense. So only (B) can fit here. To `flush (B) out' means to force someone or something out of hiding or to clean something (usually by forcing water through a container). To `flesh (A) out' something (like a plan or an idea) is to expand it or give it substance. So, (A) will be the correct option.

7. a AABBB

`Destructive' (A) means causing destruction or damage <the destructive power of modern weapons> whereas `destroying'(verb) means to damage something so badly that it no longer exists, works, etc was slowly destroying him>. So (A) will be the correct option for the first sentence. `Foolish' (A) means resulting from or showing a lack of sense, whereas `foolhardy' (B) means recklessly or thoughtlessly bold; foolishly rash; taking unnecessary risks would be foolhardy to sail in a weather like this>. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Discriminating' (A) means noting differences or distinctions with nicety; discerning, `discriminatory' (B)
means characterized by or showing prejudicial treatment, especially as an indication of racial, religious, or sexual bias, so (B) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Pallet' (A) means a bed or mattress of straw as opposed to `palette' (B) which means a thin and usually oval or oblong board or tablet with a thumb hole at one end, used by painters for holding and mixing colors. So only (B) can fit here. `Felicitous' (A) means chosen well; very suitable; apt; happy <a felicitous turn of phrase>. `Fortuitous' (B) means happening by chance, especially a lucky chance that brings a good result fortuitous meeting> success depended on a fortuitous combination of circumstances>. So (B) is the correct choice.

8. b BABAA

`Fermenting' (A) means to cause to undergo fermentation whereas `fomenting' (B) means to instigate or foster (discord, rebellion, etc.). So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Vile' (A) means highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable, whereas `bile' (A) means anger or hatred <The critic's review of the play was just a paragraph of bile>; a liquid that is produced by the liver in the body. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Emend' (A) means to edit or change (a text), `amend' (B) means to alter, modify, rephrase, or add to or subtract from (a motion, bill, constitution, etc.) by formal procedure. *Emend* usually applies to the correction of a text in the process of editing or preparing for publication; it implies improvement in the sense of greater accuracy so *amend* (B) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Lightening' (A) means to become lighter or less dark; brighten as opposed to `lightning' (B) which means a brilliant electric

spark discharge in the atmosphere, occurring within a thundercloud. So only (A) can fit here. The verb `leach' (A) means to remove chemicals, minerals, etc. from soil The noun `leech' (B) refers to a bloodsucking worm or to a person who preys on or clings to another. As a verb, `leech' means to bleed with leeches or to act as a parasite. So, (A) will be the correct choice.

9. c AABAB

`Amenable' (A) means ready or willing to answer, act, agree, or yield; open to influence, persuasion, or advice; agreeable whereas `amendable' (B) means that can be changed for the better; can be improved <The politician considered the law amendable to reflect public opinion>. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Assure' (A) means to declare earnestly to; inform or tell positively; state with confidence to whereas `ensure' (B) means to make certain or sure; guarantee. So in this context (A) will be a better fit. `Restrain' (A) means to strain again, `refrain' (B) means to abstain from an impulse to say or do something, so (B) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Cachet' (A) means superior status; prestige as opposed to `cache' (B) which means a hiding place, especially one in the ground, for ammunition, food, treasures, etc. So only (A) can fit here. The adjective `nutritional' (A) means related to the process of nutrition—that is, using food to support life nutritional value of milk>. The adjective `nutritious' (B) means healthy to eat or nourishing. So, (B) will be the correct option.

10. c AAAAA

`Condign' (A) means appropriate; deserved whereas `condescend' (B) means to descend to a less formal or dignified level; to assume an air of superiority <I will not *condescend* to answer the sore loser's charge that I cheated in order to win the race> <wealthy people who tend to be *condescending* toward their poor relations>. `Yolk' (A) refers to the yellow and principal substance of an egg, as distinguished from the white, whereas `yoke' (B) means a device for joining together a pair of animals; rough treatment or something that restricts your freedom and makes your life very difficult to bear <the yoke of imperialism> people often chafe under the yoke of parental control> a part of a dress, skirt, etc. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Naive' (A) is an adjective and means having or showing a lack of experience, judgment, or information; credulous, `knave' (B) is a noun which means an unprincipled, untrustworthy, or dishonest person, so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Babel' (A) was an ancient city in the land of Shinar in which the building of a tower intended to reach heaven was begun and the confusion of the language of the people took place; `babble' (B) which means a talk that is confused or silly and is difficult to understand. So only (A) can fit here. A buffoon is a person who does silly but amusing things which suggests that the tone of the sentence is negative. The adjective `officious' (A) means too ready to tell people what to do or to use the power you have to give orders. `Officious' generally has a negative connotation. As an adjective, `official' (B) means authorized, authoritative, or characteristic of an office. So, (A) will be the correct choice.

11. a BAAAB

`Effluent' (A) means something that flows out or forth; outflow whereas `affluent' (B) means having an abundance of wealth, property. So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Aisles' (A) are walkways between or along sections of seats in a theater, classroom, whereas `isles' (B) means small islands. *Rolling in the aisles* means wild with

laughter. So (A) will be fit for the second sentence. `Bow' (A) is the forward end of a vessel or airship, `bough' (B) is a branch of a tree, especially one of the larger or main branches, so (A) will be fit for the third sentence. `Complaisant' (A) means inclined or disposed to please; obliging; agreeable or gracious as opposed to `complacent' (B) which means too satisfied with yourself or with a situation, so that you do not feel that any change is
necessary. In the context of the sentence, (A) will be a better fit. The adjective `prospective' (A) means likely or expected to happen. The noun `perspective' (B) refers to a view or outlook. So, (B) will be the correct choice.

12. d ABABA

`Broach' (A) means to draw (beer, liquor, etc.), as by tapping; to begin talking about a subject that is difficult to discuss, especially because it is embarrassing or because people disagree about it whereas `brooch' (B) is a kind of clasp or ornament. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Perspicuous' (A) means clearly expressed or presented; lucid, whereas `perspicacious' (B) means having keen mental perception and understanding. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Quay' (A) means a landing place, especially one of solid masonry, constructed along the edge of a body of water, `key' (B) is a small metal instrument specially cut to fit into a lock and move its bolt, so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Abrogation' (A) means to abolish by formal or official means as opposed to `abnegation' (B) which means to refuse or deny oneself (some rights, conveniences, etc.); reject; renounce. So only (B) can fit here. The noun `prodigy' (A) refers to a highly talented young person or to a wondrous event. The noun `protégé' (B) refers to someone whose training or career is advanced by an influential person. So, (A) will be the appropriate choice.

13. b BBABB

`Boulevard' means a wide city street, often with trees on either side whereas `bulwark' means a person or thing that protects or defends something; a wall built as a defence; the part of a ship's side that is above the level of the deck. So, only (B) fits in the first sentence. `Sleight' (A) refers to skill; dexterity, whereas `slight' (B) means an act or instance of slighting indifference or treatment. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Vise' (A) means a tool with two metal blocks that can be moved together by turning a screw. The vise is used to hold an object firmly while work is done on it <he held my arm in a vise-like (= very firm) grip> whereas `vice' (B) means an immoral or evil habit or practice, so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Vile' (A) is an adjective and means highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable as opposed to `wile' (B) which is a noun and means a trick, artifice, or stratagem meant to fool, trap, or entice; device. Since the appropriate word needed is a noun(as is clear by the usage of an article *a*), only (B) can fit here. The verb `quench' (A) means to satisfy, extinguish, or cool down. The verb `quell' (B) means to stop something such as violent behavior or protests < Extra police were called in to quell the disturbances> or to stop or reduce strong or unpleasant feelings < to quell your fears>. So, (B) will be the correct choice.

14. d AAAAA

`Wreaked' (A) means to do great damage or harm to somebody/something <Their policies would wreak havoc on the economy> swore to wreak vengeance on those who

had betrayed him> whereas `wrecked' (B) means to spoil something completely weather wrecked all our plans>. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence whereas (B) will be repetitive as `havoc' is already mentioned there. `Perquisites' (A) refers to perk, benefit, privilege, or advantage over and above regular income, salary, whereas `prerequisites' (B) means something required beforehand. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Peremptory' (A) means expecting to be obeyed immediately and without question or refusal peremptory summons> letter was peremptory in tone>. `Preempt' (B) means to prevent something from happening by taking action to stop it; to do or say something before somebody else does, so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Wracked' (A) means to wreck as opposed to `racked' (B) which means to cause to suffer torture, pain, anguish, or ruin; to stretch or strain violently.

So only (A) can fit here. The verb `ravage' (A) means to ruin, devastate, or destroy. The noun `ravage' (often in the plural) means grievous damage or destruction. `Ravish' (B) typically has a human subject and object, and means seize, rape; to give somebody great pleasure. So, (A) will be the correct choice.

15. d AAAAA

`Review' (A) means a critical article or report, as in a periodical, on a book, play, recital, or the like whereas `revue' (B) means a form of theatrical entertainment in which recent events, popular fads, etc., are parodied. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Marquee' (A) means (especially in sport) most important or most popular <He is one of the marquee names in men's tennis> whereas `marquis' (B) means a nobleman of high rank between a count and a duke. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Pass muster' is an idiom which means to measure up to a certain standard; be adequate, `mustard' (B) is a pungent powder or paste prepared from the seed of the mustard plant, so (A) will be better fit for the third sentence. `Creak' (A) is a sharp, harsh, grating, or squeaking sound as opposed to `creek' (B) which means a small stream or tributary. So only (A) can fit here. Attrition here means a reduction or decrease in number of employees and is the apt word. `Detrition' is the act of wearing away by friction.

Test 36

1. b AABAB

'Capital' has multiple meanings: (1) a city that serves as the seat of government; (2) wealth in the form of money or property; (3) an asset or advantage; (4) a capital letter (the type of letter used at the beginning of a sentence). 'Capitol' refers to the building in which a legislative assembly meets. (Remember that the o in capitol is like the o in the dome of a capitol building.) In the statement (A) 'capitol' is appropriate as it mentions a building where the meeting was scheduled. 'Bridal' means of, for, or pertaining to a bride or a wedding and 'bridle' refers to anything that restrains or curbs. It also means part of the tack or harness of a horse, consisting usually of a headstall, bit, and reins. According to the given sentence, the subject should have a check on his expenses. Hence, 'bridle' fits well. 'Brake' means to slow or stop by means of or as if by means of a brake and 'break' means to smash, split, or divide into parts violently. In the third statement, 'brake' is appropriate. 'Ascent' refers to movement upward from a lower to a higher state, degree, grade, or status; advancement and 'assent' refers to agreement or concurrence. In the

fourth sentence, ascent is appropriate. 'Annual' refers to something occurring yearly and 'annul' means to make something void. Hence, annul is correct.

2. c ABABB

'Boor' refers to a person with rude, clumsy manners and little refinement and 'boar' is an animal. 'Boor' fits well in the sentence. 'Beside' means at the side of and 'besides' means in addition to. 'Its' is a possessive pronoun and *it's* a contraction of "it is". The adjective 'discreet' means prudently self-restrained or tactful and 'discrete' means distinct or separate. 'Eminent' means prominent or outstanding and 'imminent' means impending, about to occur.

3. d AAABB

'Continual' means "frequently repeated"; going on with occasional interruptions. 'Continuous' means "unceasing"; going on without interruption. 'Pier' means a structure built on posts extending from land out over water, used as a landing place for ships, an entertainment area and 'pyre' refers to a pile or heap of wood or other combustible material. 'Mete' means to distribute by or as if by measure; allot: mete out justice and 'meet' means to come upon by chance or arrangement. The verb 'elicit' means to call forth or bring out and the adjective 'illicit' means unlawful or not permitted. The adjective 'liable' means subject to, obligated to, or responsible for something. The noun or verb 'libel' refers to a false publication that damages a person's reputation.

4. a BBAAA

'Practice' is a noun which refers to a habitual or customary performance; operation and 'practise' is its verb form. 'Premise' refers to a proposition supporting or helping to support a conclusion and 'premises' refers to a tract of land including its buildings. As both a noun and a verb, 'peek' refers to a glance or brief look. The noun 'pique' refers to a sense of wounded pride. As a verb, pique means to excite, arouse, or irritate. 'Retch' means to vomit and 'wretch' refers to a deplorably unfortunate or unhappy person. 'Raze' means to tear down; demolish; level to the ground and 'raise' means to move to a higher position.

5. b AABAB

The adjective 'stationary' means remaining in one place. The noun 'stationery' means writing materials. 'Throes' refers to a violent spasm or pang; paroxysm and 'throw' means to propel or cast in any way, especially to project or propel from the hand by a sudden forward motion or straightening of the arm and wrist: to throw a ball. 'Palatable' means having a pleasant or acceptable taste. 'Palpable' means readily or plainly seen, heard, perceived, capable of being touched or felt. 'Tenet' refers to any opinion, principle, doctrine, dogma, etc., especially one held as true by members of a profession, group, or movement and 'tenant' refers to a person or group that rents and occupies land, a house etc. 'Stature' refers to the height of a human or animal body; level of achievement and 'statute' refers to an enactment made by a legislature and expressed in a formal document.

6. b ABBAB

The adjective 'economical' generally means thrifty--marked by careful use of resources or operating with little waste. The adjective 'economic' (related to the field of economics) generally refers to the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. The adjective 'gristly' means resembling or containing gristle. The noun 'grizzly' refers to a large brown bear. As an adjective, 'grizzly' (more commonly grizzled) means streaked with gray. The adjective 'disinterested' means impartial and without bias and 'uninterested' means indifferent or unconcerned. 'Childlike' is an adjective which means like or befitting a child, as in innocence, trustfulness, or candor and 'childish' means marked by or indicating a lack of maturity. The noun 'temerity' means reckless boldness; rashness. The adjective 'timidity' means lacking in self-assurance, courage, or bravery; easily alarmed; timorous; shy.

7. c BAAAA

'Demur' is the act of making objection and 'demure' refers to a person who is characterized by shyness and modesty; reserved. The adjective 'credible' means believable, worthy, or trustworthy and 'creditable' means worthy of praise or credit. 'Foreboding' refers to a sense of impending evil or misfortune and 'forbidding' means tending or threatening to impede progress. So 'foreboding' will be redundant in this case, as the following word is 'premonition', which is a synonym of 'foreboding'. The verb 'flounder' means to struggle, to make clumsy efforts to move or regain one's balance. The verb 'founder' means to sink or become disabled. 'Expeditious' refers to acting or done with speed and efficiency and 'expedient' means conducive to advantage or interest; an action that is useful or necessary for a particular purpose, but not always fair or right.

8. d AAABA

'Obsequious' means characterized by or showing servile complaisance or deference; fawning. 'Obsequies' refers to a funeral rite or ceremony. The adjective 'amoral' means lying outside the moral order or acting without regard for any particular code of morality; neither moral nor immoral. The adjective 'immoral' means not moral--that is, violating traditionally held moral principles. 'Exult' means to show or feel a lively or triumphant joy; rejoice exceedingly; be highly elated or jubilant. 'Exalt' means to raise in rank, honor, power, character, quality, etc. 'Adjure' means to charge, bind, or command earnestly and solemnly, often under oath or the threat of a penalty and 'abjure' means to renounce, repudiate, or retract, especially with formal solemnity. 'Griping' means to complain naggingly or constantly; grumble and 'gripping' means holding the attention or interest intensely; fascinating; enthralling.

9. d BAAAB

The adjective 'climactic' corresponds to the noun climax: 'a climactic scene'. The adjective 'climatic' corresponds to the noun climate: 'climatic research'. The noun 'confidant' refers to a person (usually a friend or associate) to whom secrets or private matters are disclosed. The adjective 'confident' means certain, bold, or self-assured. The singular noun 'criterion' means a standard on which a judgment or decision can be based. The plural form of criterion is 'criteria'. The noun 'conscience' means the sense of what is right and what is wrong and the adjective 'conscious' means being aware or deliberate. A 'desert' is a dry, sandy region or wasteland; the verb 'desert' means 'to abandon'. A 'dessert' is a sweet dish served at the end of a meal.

10. c ABABB

'Quiet' means silence and 'quite' means 'very' or 'actually'. The noun 'allusion' means an indirect reference to a person, event, or thing. 'Illusion' is a noun that means false impression. 'Affect' is usually a verb meaning 'to influence'. 'Effect' is usually a noun meaning result. When used as a verb, 'effect' means to cause. As a noun, 'principal' commonly means 'administrator' or a 'sum of money'. As an adjective, 'principal' means most important. The noun 'principle' means basic truth or rule. 'Empathy' refers to identification with and understanding of another's situation, feelings, and motives and 'apathy' refers to lack of interest or concern; absence or suppression of passion, emotion, or excitement.

11. b BAABB

`Epoch' (A) means a particular period of time marked by distinctive features, events whereas `epic' (B) means heroic; majestic; a long poem about the actions of great men and women or about a nation's history; a long and difficult job or activity that you think people should admire. So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Carefree' (A) means without anxiety or worry, whereas `careless' (B) means not paying enough attention to what one does. In context of the sentence (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. *Few* gives a negative idea; it indicate that something is largely absent. *A few* express a positive idea. It indicates that something exists or is present (but in a small number). *The few* refers to the small number of something that is being talked about or referred to. So (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Effective' (A) means adequate to accomplish a purpose; producing the intended or expected result as opposed to `efficient' (B) which means the skillful use of energy or industry to accomplish desired results with little waste of effort. Only (B) can be used with persons so (A) cannot fit here. The adjective `restive' (A) means difficult to control or impatient in the face of restraint or authority. The adjective `restless' (B) means unable to rest, relax, or remain still. Unlike `restive', `restless' is not associated with an external restraint. So, (B) will be the correct choice.

12. d ABABA

`Sear' (A) means to cause somebody to feel sudden and great pain; burn or scorch injuriously or painfully whereas `sere' (B) means dry; withered. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Shear' (A) means to cut (something), whereas `sheer' (B) is used to emphasize the size, degree or amount of something; unmixed with anything else. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Envelop' (A) (verb) means to wrap up in or as in a covering, `envelope' (B) is a noun and means a flat paper container used for sending letters in, so only (A) (verb) can fit in the third sentence. `Foundering' (A) means to become wrecked; fail utterly as opposed to
`floundering' (B) which means to struggle clumsily or helplessly. Only (B) can fit here because the campaign is still underway it has not yet failed. `Regrettable' (A) applies to incidents or situations and means causing or deserving regret. The adjective `regretful' (B) refers to people and means feeling or showing sadness or disappointment because of something that has happened or something that you have done or not done So, (A) will be the correct choice.

13. b ABBAB

`Rupture' (A) means the act of breaking or bursting whereas `rapture' (B) means ecstatic joy or delight; joyful ecstasy. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Shoal' (A) refers to a small hill of sand just below the surface of the sea, whereas `shale' (B) means a type of soft stone that splits easily into thin flat layers. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Deft' (A) means dexterous; nimble; skillful; clever, `daft' (B) means senseless, stupid, or foolish, so (B) will be better fit for the third sentence. `Weary' (A) means physically or mentally exhausted by hard work, exertion, strain, etc as opposed to `wary' (B) which means watchful; being on one's guard against danger. So only (A) can fit here. The adjective `reluctant' (A) means to feel or show hesitation, aversion, or unwillingness. The adjective `reticent' (B) means inclined to be silent or restrained in expression or appearance. So, (B) will be the correct option.

14. b BAABA

`Mitigates' (A) means to lessen in force or intensity, as wrath, grief, harshness, or pain; moderate whereas `militates' (B) means to have a substantial effect; weigh heavily. So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Titivate' (A) means to make smart or spruce; to improve the appearance of somebody/something by making small changes <She titivated her hair in the mirror> whereas `titillate' (B) means to excite or arouse agreeably. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Wreathe' (A) is a verb which means to encircle or adorn with or as with a wreath, `wreath' (B) is a noun which means a circular band of flowers, foliage, or any ornamental work, for adorning the head or for any decorative purpose; a garland or chaplet. Since only a verb can fit in here, so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Illude' (A) means to deceive or trick as opposed to `elude' (B) which means to avoid or escape by speed, cleverness, trickery, etc. So only (B) can fit here. Machination (A) means a secret and complicated plan. So (A) is the correct choice.

15. c ABAAB

`Amicable' (A) means characterized by or showing goodwill; friendly; peaceable whereas `amiable' (B) means having or showing pleasant, good-natured personal qualities; affable. *Amiable* refers for example to someone's personality and suggests a friendly and pleasant manner - in a sense likeable. *Amicable* refers to things like arrangements and agreements that are favorable to both sides in the agreement or arrangement, so (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. `Better' (A) means of superior quality or excellence, whereas `bettor' (B) means a person who bets. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. `Bloc' (A) means a group of persons, businesses, etc., united for a particular purpose, `block' (B) means a solid mass of wood, stone, etc., usually with one or more flat or approximately flat faces, so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. `Continuous' (A) means prolonged without interruption; unceasing as opposed to `continual' (A) which means of regular or frequent recurrence; often repeated; very frequent. `Continuous' is not interchangeable with `continual' in the sense of spatial relationship. So only (A) can fit here. The noun `tact' (A) means diplomacy or skill in dealing with others. `Tack' (B) refers to the way in which you deal with a particular situation; the direction of your words or thoughts; a course of action; a small nail; the direction of a ship. So, (B) will be the correct option.

Test 37

1. d ABAAA

'Wale' refers to a streak, stripe, or ridge produced on the skin by the stroke of a rod or whip; welt and 'wail' refers to a long, loud, high-pitched cry, as of grief or pain. 'Vantage' means a position, condition, or place affording some advantage or a commanding view and 'vintage' refers to something representing the high quality of a past time: vintage cars; vintage movies. 'Taut' means emotionally or mentally strained or tense: taut nerve and 'tout' means to describe or advertise boastfully; publicize or promote; praise extravagantly: a highly touted nightclub. 'Sulk' means to remain silent or hold oneself aloof in a sullen, ill-humored, or offended mood and 'skulk' means to lie or keep in hiding, as for some evil reason: The thief skulked in the shadows. 'Stalagmites' refers to a deposit, usually of calcium carbonate, more or less resembling an inverted stalactite, formed on the floor of a cave or the like by the dripping of percolating calcareous water. And 'stalactites' refers to a deposit, usually of calcium carbonate, shaped like an icicle, hanging from the roof of a cave or the like, and formed by the dripping of percolating calcareous water.

2. c BAAAA

'Vogue' refers to something in fashion, as at a particular time and 'vague' refers to something not clearly or explicitly stated or expressed. 'Tortuous' refers to something full of twists, turns, or bends; twisting, winding, or crooked and 'torturous' pertaining to, involving, or causing torture or suffering. 'Risqué' means daringly close to indelicacy or impropriety; off-color and 'risky' refers to something attended with or involving risk; hazardous. 'Rogue' refers to an unprincipled, deceitful, and unreliable person and 'rouge' refers to red or pink cosmetic for coloring the cheeks or lips. 'Especially' is an adverb which means particularly; exceptionally; markedly: Be especially watchful. 'Specially' means in a special manner; "a specially arranged dinner".

3. b BBABB

'Rampart' refers to anything serving as a bulwark or defense and 'rampant' refers to something widespread and unrestrained and 'rampant' refers to something extending unchecked; unrestrained. 'Premier' refers to someone first in status or importance; principal or chief and 'premiere' refers to a first public performance or showing of a play, opera, film, etc. 'Precipitous' refers to something very steep: precipitous cliffs. It also refers to something rapid and unplanned, hasty. 'Precipitate' means to cause to happen earlier than expected. 'Populous' means full of residents or inhabitants, as a region; heavily populated and 'populace' refers to the common people of a community, nation, etc., as distinguished from the higher classes. 'Impale' means to push a sharp pointed object through something. 'Impel' means to drive or urge forward; press on; incite or constrain to action.

4. a BAABA

'Voracious' is an adjective that refers to someone who is exceedingly eager or avid: voracious readers; a voracious collector. 'Veracious' means habitually speaking the truth; truthful; honest: a veracious witness. 'Sensuous' refers to, favorably or literally, to what is experienced through the senses: sensuous impressions; sensuous poetry and 'sensual' means of, relating to, given to, or providing gratification of the physical and especially the sexual appetites. 'Ironic' means coincidental; unexpected and 'sarcastic' means of, pertaining to, or characterized by sarcasm: a sarcastic reply. `Mucus' is a noun; `mucous'

is an adjective. 'Mucus' refers to the viscous, slippery substance that consists chiefly of mucin, water, cells, and inorganic salts and is secreted as a protective lubricant coating by cells and glands of the 'mucous' membranes. 'Redolent' means suggestive; reminiscent. 'Indolent' means not wanting to work.

5. b AAABB

'Meddle' means to involve oneself in a matter without right or invitation; interfere officiously and 'mettle' refers to courage and fortitude. 'Luxuriant' refers to something richly abundant, profuse, or superabundant and 'luxurious' refers to something characterized by luxury; ministering or conducive to luxury: a luxurious hotel.

'Loath' means unwilling; reluctant; disinclined; averse: to be loath to admit a mistake.

And 'loathe' is a verb which means to feel disgust or intense aversion for; abhor: I loathe people who spread malicious gossip. 'Infer' means to derive by reasoning; conclude or judge from premises or evidence: They inferred his displeasure from his cool tone of voice. 'Imply' means to suggest that something is true or that you feel or think something, without saying so directly. <I disliked the implied criticism in his voice.> 'Corvette' means a warship. 'Cravat' is a necktie.

6. c AAABA

'Comprises' means to include or contain; to consist of and 'composes' means to make or form by combining things, parts, or elements. 'Enormity' refers to outrageous or heinous character; atrociousness: the enormity of war crimes. 'Enormousness' means very great or abnormal size, bulk, degree, etc.; immensity; hugeness. 'Duel' refers to a prearranged, formal combat between two persons, usually fought to settle a point of honor and 'dual' means of, pertaining to, or noting two. 'Adept' means very skilled; proficient; expert: an adept juggler. 'Adapt' means to make suitable to requirements or conditions; adjust or modify fittingly: They adapted themselves to the change quickly. He adapted the novel for movies. 'Later' means at some time subsequent to a given time. 'Latter' means of, relating to, or being the second of two groups or things or the last of several groups or things referred to <of ham and beef the latter is cheaper today>.

7. d AABBB

'Fortuitous' refers to something happening or produced by chance; accidental: a fortuitous encounter. 'Fortunate' refers to someone having good fortune; receiving good from uncertain or unexpected sources; lucky. 'Exceptional' means forming an exception or rare instance; unusual; extraordinary: The warm weather was exceptional for January. 'Exceptionable' refers to something liable to exception or objection; objectionable. 'Exasperate' means to irritate or provoke to a high degree; annoy extremely: He was exasperated by the senseless delays. 'Exacerbate' means to increase the severity, violence, or bitterness of; aggravate: a speech that exacerbated racial tensions; a heavy rainfall that exacerbated the flood problems. 'Espouse' refers to choosing and following; as of theories, ideas, policies, strategies or plans and 'expound' means to set forth or state in detail: to expound theories. 'Gratis' means without charge or payment; free: The manufacturer provided an extra set of coat buttons gratis. 'Gratuitous' is an adjective which has multiple connotations. It means given, done, bestowed, or obtained without charge or payment;

free; voluntary. It also means being without an apparent reason, cause, or justification: a gratuitous insult.

8. d AABBB

'Epitaph' refers to an inscription on a tombstone in memory of the one buried there and an 'epigram' is a brief, witty statement in prose or verse. An 'epigraph' is a brief quotation set at the beginning of a text (a book, a chapter of a book, an essay, a poem) to suggest its theme. It also refers to an inscription, as on a statue or building. 'Epithet' refers to any word or phrase applied to a person or thing to describe an actual or attributed quality: "Richard the Lion-Hearted" is an epithet of Richard I. 'Callous' is an adjective which refers to somebody who is insensitive; indifferent; unsympathetic: They have a callous attitude toward the sufferings of others. 'Callus' refers to a hardened or thickened part of the skin; a callosity. 'Abstruse' means hard to understand; recondite; esoteric: abstruse theories and 'obtuse' is an adjective which refers to somebody not quick or alert in perception, feeling, or intellect. 'Addictive' means causing or tending to cause addiction. It also means characterized by or susceptible to addiction: an addictive personality. 'Addicting' means to cause to become physiologically or psychologically dependent on a habit-forming substance.

9. b BAAAA

'Augur' means to predict, bode as from omens; prognosticate and 'auger' refers to a boring tool, similar to but larger than a gimlet, consisting of a bit rotated by a transverse handle. 'Complement' means something that completes or brings to perfection. A 'compliment' is an expression of praise. The noun 'mantel' refers to a shelf above a fireplace. The noun 'mantle' refers to a cloak or (usually figuratively) to royal robes of state as a symbol of authority or responsibility. 'Eclectic' means not following one style or set of ideas but choosing from or using a wide variety whereas exotic means from or in another country, especially a tropical one; seeming exciting and unusual because it is connected with foreign countries. 'Oriental' is of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the Orient, or East; Eastern. 'Occidental' is of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the Occident or its natives and inhabitants; western.

10. c AAABA

'Pall' means a cloth covering, usually black, spread over a coffin or tomb; depressing or oppressive atmosphere and 'pawl' is a pivoted bar adapted to engage with the teeth of a ratchet wheel or the like so as to prevent movement or to impart motion. The noun 'palate' refers to the roof of the mouth or the sense of taste. The noun 'palette' refers to an artist's paint board or a range of colors. 'Wreath' refers to a circular band of flowers, foliage, or any ornamental work, for adorning the head or for any decorative purpose; a garland or chaplet. 'Wrath' refers to strong, stern, or fierce anger; deeply resentful indignation. The noun 'hoard' refers to a supply of something that has been stored up and often hidden away. As a verb, 'hoard' means to collect and store away or to keep something to oneself. The noun 'horde' means a crowd, throng, or swarm. To 'flaunt' means to show off. To 'flout' means to defy or to show contempt for.

11. d ABAAA

'Abjure' (A) means to renounce whereas 'adjure' (B) means to request earnestly. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. 'Ambiguous' (A) means open to more than one

interpretation; not having one obvious meaning; not clear or decided, whereas 'ambivalent' (B) means the simultaneous existence of two opposed and conflicting attitudes, emotions; having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone. So (B) will be a better fit for the second sentence. 'Apprise' (A) means to inform, 'appraise' (B) means to evaluate, so (A) will be better fit for the third sentence. 'Amoral' (A) means without moral standards or principles as opposed to 'immoral' (B) which means violating moral principles. Since there is already a mention of lack of moral sensibility in the sentence only (A) is logically fit here. 'Classic' (A) means an author or a literary work of the first rank, especially one of demonstrably enduring quality. 'Classical' (B) means pertaining to or versed in the ancient classics. So, (A) will be a better option.

12. c BABAB

'Alternate'(A) means every other; (of two things) each following and succeeded by the other in a regular pattern. Whereas 'alternative' (B) means (of two things) mutually exclusive; (of one or more things) available as another possibility or choice. So, B is a better choice. 'Ameliorate' (A) means to make or become better, more bearable, whereas 'alleviate' (B) means to make (suffering, deficiency, or a problem) less severe. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. 'Compel' (A) means to force somebody to do something; to make something necessary whereas if an idea or feeling 'impels' you to do something, you feel as if you are forced to do it. <Last year ill health compelled his retirement>. felt impelled to investigate further>.So (B) will be a better fit. 'Antidote' (A) means a
medicine or other remedy for counteracting the effects of poison, disease whereas 'anecdote' (B) means a short account of a particular incident or event. So only (A) can fit here. 'Unchartered' (A) means not authorized by charter; unregulated; not having a charter or written constitution, 'uncharted' (B) means not shown or located on a map; not mapped or surveyed; unexplored; unknown, as a place or region. It is also used figuratively as 'the present study is a foray into uncharted territory'. Hence, (B) will be the correct choice.

13. d AABBA

'Breach' (A) means a gap made in a wall, fortification; an act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct; a break in relations whereas 'breech' (B) means the hinder or lower part of a gun. So (A) will be a better fit. 'Cavalry' (A) means the part of a military force composed of troops that serve on horseback whereas 'calvary' means the hill outside Jerusalem on which Christ was crucified. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. 'Childlike' (A) means (of an adult) having the good qualities, such as innocence, associated with a child whereas 'childish' (B) means silly and immature so childish (B) will be a better fit for the third sentence as it suits the tone (the tone is negative). 'Climactic' (B) means pertaining to or coming to a climax: as opposed to 'climatic' (A) which means of or pertaining to climate. So, only (B) can fit here. 'Repudiated' (A) means to reject with disapproval or condemnation. 'Refuted' (B) means to prove to be false or erroneous, so (A) will be the correct option.

14. a AAABB

'Compounded' (A) means to increase or add to whereas 'confounded' (B) means bewildered; confused. So (A) will be a better fit for the first sentence. 'Contemptuous' (A) means showing or expressing contempt or disdain, whereas 'contemptible' (B) means

worthy of contempt. So (A) will be a better fit for the second sentence. 'Credible' (A) means capable of being believed; believable, 'credulous' (B) means gullible, so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. 'Demure' (A) is an adjective that means characterized by shyness and modesty. 'Demur' (B) is a verb that means to raise objections or show reluctance. Since a verb is required in the sentence, only (B) can fit here. 'Inflammatory' (A) means tending to arouse anger, hostility etc; relating to or causing inflammation of a part of the body; arousing or intended to arouse angry or violent feelings whereas 'inflammable' (B) means capable of being set on fire; combustible; flammable. So, (B) will be the correct choice.

15. b BAAAA

'Connotes' (B) means to signify or suggest (certain meanings, ideas, etc.) in addition to the explicit or primary meaning whereas 'denotes' (B) means to be a mark or sign of; indicate. So (B) will be a better fit for the first sentence. 'Fritter something away' means to waste time or money on things that are not important whereas 'fetter somebody' means to put chains around a prisoner's feet. So (A) will be a better fit. 'Dissemble' (A) means to give a false or misleading appearance; to conceal or disguise one's true feelings or beliefs whereas 'disassemble' (B) means to take apart; take (something) to pieces so (A) will be a better fit for the third sentence. 'Apocryphal' (A) means of doubtful authorship or authenticity as opposed to 'apothecary' (B) which means a pharmacist; a person who prepared and sold medicines and drugs. So only (A) can fit here. 'Propound' (A) means to put forward (an idea or theory) for consideration by others, 'propose' (B) means to offer or suggest (a matter, subject, case, etc.) for consideration, acceptance, or action. So, (A) will be the correct choice.