

VOCABULARY

INTRODUCTION

Vocabulary plays an important role in one's ability to express oneself and understand others. The greater the number of words that one is familiar with, the better placed one is to be articulate and cogent in what one communicates.

Vocabulary is one of the test areas in MBA entrance examinations like the CAT. Performance on vocabulary-based questions, among other things, is considered a good indicator of the candidate's comfort level with the language. Vocabulary-based questions on MBA entrance examinations, test candidates on their knowledge of words that are normally not used in everyday conversations and on nuances of common words. Candidates are also tested on vocabulary in other test areas like Reading Comprehension. Reading Comprehension passages often contain difficult words, an understanding of which is critical to gaining an understanding the meaning of a statement or an idea expressed in the passage. These examinations make it imperative to undertake an exercise in vocabulary building so that one is able to do well on the vocabulary-based questions.

Vocabulary building

Most of us have at some point of time or the other, tried our hand at vocabulary building. Most have us have possibly given up overwhelmed by the enormity of the task and also because words are so notoriously hard to remember. However, vocabulary-building need not be an exercise in futility. Success hinges on having a sensible and realistic plan and working systematically.

Refer to 'Adding New Words' and 'Revising Words Already Learnt' from the introductory note in Verbal Ability Study Material.

Words should never be learnt by rote. Words learnt that way are easily forgotten. One of the best ways to learn new words, and more importantly remember them is by learning roots, prefixes and suffixes.

Roots, prefixes and suffixes

Roots

A large number of words in the English language have been coined from Greek and Latin words. Knowledge of these root words is useful when learning words. Root words contain the core meaning of the word. Consider for example the Greek root word 'anthrop'. 'Anthrop' means 'human'. From this Greek word is derived English words like 'misanthrope', 'philanthropy', anthropology etc. If one is aware of the meaning of the root word 'anthrop' one can easily work out the meaning of all those words that have 'anthrop' as its core. Thus knowledge of root words frees us from the need to memorise words. One just needs to remember the meanings of root words, and then use this knowledge to derive the meanings of words. Let us take a few examples.

The word 'misanthrope' has 'anthrop' as its root and therefore the word evidently has something to do with 'man' or 'human'. The prefix 'mis' is a negative prefix. Thus we have words like 'mishap', 'misunderstanding', 'misdemeanour', 'mistake' etc that are all negative words. Misanthrope is also a negative word and refers to a person who hates mankind. Knowledge of the meaning of the root word 'anthrop' and the prefix 'mis' will ensure that one need not remember the meaning of the word 'misanthrope'. You can derive the meaning of the word using your knowledge of the root word and prefix.

Knowledge of the root word 'anthrop' is handy when dealing with 'anthropomorphic' also. The root word 'morph' refers to form or shape (other words with this root word are 'morphology', 'amorphous', 'metamorphosis'). Thus one can safely conclude that the word 'anthropomorphic' means 'like a human being', or 'humanlike' or 'having the attributes of a human being'. In fact this is very close to the dictionary definition of the word (suggesting human characteristics).

Thus the knowledge of one root word helps us derive the meaning of several words. This certainly goes a long way in simplifying the task of learning and recollecting the meanings of words.

Prefixes and suffixes

Prefixes and suffixes are also useful in learning and remembering the meanings of words.

A prefix is an incomplete word that is placed at the beginning of a word to change its meaning. Take for example the prefix 'pre'. 'Pre' is a Latin word that means before. Therefore we have words like 'premonition', 'presage' and 'prescient'. If one knows the meaning of the prefix 'pre', one can guess intelligently at the meaning of these words. Prefixes are extensively used to coin antonyms of words (e.g. the Latin prefix 'non' which means 'not').

A suffix is an incomplete word part that is placed at the end of a word to change its meaning. Take for example, the Greek suffix 'logy' which means 'study', 'theory', 'science' etc. Thus there are words like 'biology', 'anthropology', 'sociology' etc that refer to the study of certain domains.

It is clear from the above that knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes is essential to building a good vocabulary. You will find a list of root words in this booklet. Study these root words and the words that are derived from them systematically. Ensure that you revise these frequently in order to ensure better retention. You will also find vocabulary based questions in this booklet. After you have gone through all the root words, answer these questions. Use your knowledge of root words to derive the meaning of the words you come across.

You should plan to learn about ten root words a day. Revise the root words that you learnt over the previous days. This will help you remember these root words better.

CHAPTER - I

PREFIXES

In this chapter, some of the most commonly used prefixes are given. Corresponding to the prefix in the first column, its meaning is given in the second column. Given in the third column are words (and their meanings) that contain the corresponding prefix given in the first column.

ab, abs	from, away from	ABDUCT ABJURE ABJECT ABROGATE ABSTAIN ABSCOND ABNORMAL	lead away, kidnap renounce degraded abolish to keep from run away away from normal
ad, ac, af, ag, an, ap, ar, as, at	to, forward	ADIT ADJURE ADMIT ACCORD ACCRETION ACCRUE AFFLICTION AGGREGATION ANNEXATION APPARITION ARRAIGNMENT ASSUMPTION ATTENDANCE	entrance request earnestly allow entrance agreement, harmony addition to add distress collection add to ghost indictment arrogance, the taking for granted presence, the persons present
ambi, amphi	both	AMBIDEXTROUS AMBIGUOUS AMBIVALENT AMPHIBIOUS	skilled with both hands of double meaning having two conflicting emotions leading double lives
an, a	without	AGNOSTIC AMORPHOUS AMORAL ANARCHY ANAEMIA APATHY ATYPICAL	without belief in god without any shape without moral sense lack of government lack of blood without feeling indifferent not typical
ante	before	ANTECEDENT ANTEDILUVIAN ANTE-NUPTIAL	preceding event or word ancient before the wedding
anti	against, opposite	ANTAGONIZE ANTIBIOTIC ANTIDOTE ANTIPATHY ANTISEPTIC ANTITHETICAL	oppose substance working against organisms substance against a poison hatred against infection exactly opposite
apo	away, from, off	APOSTATE APOGEE	one who stands away from or forsakes faith farthest point away from the earth

arch	chief, first	ARCHETYPE ARCHBISHOP ARCHAEOLOGY	original chief bishop study of first or ancient times
be	over, thoroughly	BEDAUB BEFUDDLE BEGUILE	smear over confuse thoroughly deceive, charm thoroughly
bene	well	BENEVOLENCE	good will
bi	two	BICAMERAL BIENNIAL BICYCLE BIGAMY BINOCULARS	composed of two houses every two years two-wheeled vehicle being married to two people at the same time two additional eyes
cata	down	CATASTROPHE CATARACT CATAPULT	disaster waterfall hurl (throw down)
circum	around	CIRCUMNAVIGATE CIRCUMSPECT CIRCUMSCRIBE CIRCUMLOCUTION	sail around cautious (looking around) limit (place a circle around) round about way of saying things
com, co, col, con, cor	with, together	COMMERCE COEDITOR COLLATERAL CORROBORATE CONCURRENCE CONTEMPORANEOUS CONVIVIAL	trade with joint editor subordinate, connected confirm agreement happening at the same time together living, dining together, hence joyous festive
contra, contro	against	CONTRAVENE CONTROVERSY COUNTERPOISE COUNTERMAND	conflict with dispute a weight set against another order against
de	down, away	DEBASE DECADENCE DECANT DEMOLISH DETER	lower in value deterioration pour off destruction, tear down move away
demi	partly, half	DEMIGOD	partly divine being
di	two	DICHOTOMY DILEMMA	division into two parts choice between two bad alternatives

dia	across	DIAGONAL DIAMETER DIAGRAM DIAPHANOUS	across a figure distance across a circle outline drawing which can be seen through or across
dis, dif	not, apart	DISCORD DIFFER DISPARITY DISSOLUTION DISSENSION DIFFIDENT	lack of harmony disagree (carry apart) condition of inequality; difference breaking up of an assembly not going together, disagreement in opinion not to be trusted
dys	faulty, bad	DYSLEXIA DYSPEPSIA DYSTROPHY	faulty ability to read indigestion wasting of muscles
en, em	in within	ENCAUSTIC	burnt in, having the colour fixed by heat
epi	on, upon	EPITAPH	an inscription as on a gravestone
eu	well	EUPHONY EUPHORIA EUPEPTIC EUGENICS EULOGY	on agreeable sound a sense of well-being having good digestion the science of race improvement praise
ex, e	out	EXPEL EXTIRPATE EJECT	drive out root out throw out
extra, extro	beyond, outside	EXTRACURRICULAR EXTRATERRITORIAL EXTROVERT	beyond the curriculum beyond a nation's bounds person interested chiefly in external objects and actions
hyper	above; excessively	HYPERBOLE HYPERCRITIC HYPEREMESIS HYPERTENSION HYPERVENTILATE	exaggeration one who is excessively critic excess vomiting high blood pressure breathe at an excessive rate
hypo	beneath, lower	HYPOGLYCAEMIA HYPOCRISY HYPOTHESIS	low blood sugar concealment of true character or belief proposition assumed for the sake of argument
in, il, im, ir	not	INARTICULATE INCORRIGIBLE INEFFICIENT ILLEGIBLE ILLICIT ILLOGICAL IMPECCABLE	not clear or distinct which cannot be corrected not efficient not readable not lawful not logical not capable of shining;

		IMMORTAL IGNOBLE INOPPORTUNE	flawless without death not worthy not timely ; poorly chosen
		IMPOTENT IMPLACABLE	not effective; weak not capable of being pacified
		INCONGRUITY	without harmony; absurdity
		IRREVOCABLE	not able to be called back
		IRREPRESSIBLE	not capable of being held back
		IRREMEDIABLE	not capable of being corrected
		IRREFRAGABLE	not to be disproved
in, il, im, ir	in, on, upon	INVITE ILLUSTRATION	call in something that makes clear
		IMPRESSION	effect upon mind or feelings
		IRRADIATE	shine upon
		IMBIBE INSCRIPTION	take into, absorb into that which written upon something like stone etc.
inter	between, among	INTERVENE INTERNATIONAL INTERJECTION	come between between nations a statement thrown in
intra, intro	within	INTRAMURAL INTROVERT	within a school person who turns within himself
macro	large, long	MACROBIOTIC MACROCOSM	tending to prolong life the great world
mega	great, million	MEGALOMANIA MEGATON	delusions of grandeur explosive force of a million tons of TNT
meta	involving change	METAMORPHOSIS METEMPSYCHOSIS	change of form the passing of soul after death into some other body
		METAPLASIA	tissue transformation as of cartilage into bone
micro	small	MICROCOSM MICROBE MICROSCOPIC	miniature universe minute organism extremely small
mis	bad, improper	MISDEMEANOUR	minor crime; bad conduct
		MISCHANCE MISNOMER	unfortunate accident wrong name
mis	hatred	MISANTHROPE MISOGYNIST	person hates man kind woman-hater
mono	one	MONARCHY MONOTHEISM	government by one ruler belief in one god a pillar or column of a

		MONOLITH	single stone
		MONOLOGUE	a composition intended to be spoken by single person
		MONOPOLY	sole power or privilege of dealing in anything
		MONOGAMY	the rule or custom of marriage to one wife or husband at a time
		MONOLATRY	the worship of one god without excluding the belief in others
			having a single set of teeth
		MONOPHYDONT	
multi	many	MULTIFARIOUS MULTITUDINOUS MULTILINGUAL	having many parts numerous pertaining to many languages
neo	new	NEOLOGISM NEOPHYTE NEONATAL	newly coined word beginner; novice pertaining to the newly born
non	not	NONCOMMITTAL NONENTITY	undecided person of no importance
ob, oc, of, op	against	OBLOQUY OBTRUDE OCCLUDE OFFEND OPPONENT	infamy; disgrace push into prominence close; block out insult someone who struggles against; foe
olig	few	OLIGARCHY	government by a few
omni	all	OMNIVOROUS OMNIPOTENT OMNISCIENT	eating everything all powerful knowing everything
pan	all, every	PANACEA PANORAMA PANDEMIC PANDEMONIUM	cure-all unobstructed view in all directions incident to a whole people everything in very disorderly manner
para	beyond, related	PARALLEL PARAPHRASE	similar restate; translate
per, pel	through, completely	PERMEABLE PERVADE PEREGRINATION PELLUCID	allowing passage through spread throughout travelling about completely or perfectly clear
peri	around, near	PERIPATETIC PERIPHRASTIC	walking around from place to place stated in a roundabout way
poly	many	POLYGAMIST	person with several spouses

		POLYGLOT	speaking several languages
		POLYCHROME	many coloured
		POLYARCHY	a government by many persons
		POLYGENESIS	multiple origin especially of man kind
post	after	POSTERITY	generations that follow after death
		POSTHUMOUS	a part added to a letter after signature
		POST SCRIPT	after dinner
		POST PRANDIAL	
pre, pro	before	PREAMBLE	introductory statement forewarning
		PREMONITION	an event preceding and leading to another of greater importance
		PRELUDE	before birth
			a forecasting
		PRENATAL	a speech before play
		PROGNOSIS	to bring or draw forward;
		PROLOGUE	to protrude
		PROTRACT	
prim	first	PRIMORDIAL	existing at the dawn of time
		PRIMOGENITURE	state of being the first born
		PRIMEVAL	belonging to first ages
		PRIMITIVE	belonging to the beginning or to the first times
pro	forward, in favour of	PROPULSIVE	driving forward
		PROPONENT	supporter
proto	first	PROTOTYPE	first of its kind
pseudo	false	PSEUDONYM	pen name
re	again, back	REITERATE	repeat
		REIMBURSE	pay back
retro	backward	RETROSPECT	looking back; a backward view
		RETROACTIVE	effective as of a past date
		RETROGRESS	backward movement
se	away, side	SECEDE	withdraw
		SECLUDE	shut away
		SEDUCE	lead astray
semi	half, partly	SEMIANNUAL	every six months
		SEMICONSCIOUS	partly conscious
sub, suc, suf, sug, sup, sus	under, less	SUBWAY	underground road
		SUBJUGATE	bring under control
		SUCCUMB	yield; cease to resist
		SUFFUSE	spread through
		SUGGEST	hint
		SUPPRESS	put down by force
		SUSPEND	delay
		SUBCUTANEOUS	under the skin

super, sur, supra	over, above	SUPERNATURAL SUPERVISE SURTAX SUPEREROGATORY	above natural things oversee additional tax doing more than is required
syn, sym, syl, sys	with, together	SYNCHRONIZE SYNTHESIZE SYMPATHIZE SYLLOGISM SYNDROME SYMPOSIUM	time together combine together pity ; identify with explanation of how ideas relate symptoms occurring together or happening concurrently meeting or a conference where many people come together measurement from a distance communicated over difference
tele	far	TELEMETRY TELEGRAPHIC	measurement from a distance communicated over difference
trans	across	TRANSDUCE TRANSMIGRATION TRANSE	reverse, move across the passing of the soul into another body a doze or stupor, as if passing beyond life
tri	three	TRIAD TRIPTYCH TRAMMEL	a group of three three pictures or carvings on folding panels placed side by side a net of three layers which can enmesh the feet
ultra	beyond, excessive	ULTRAMODERN ULTRACRITICAL	excessively modern exceedingly critical
un	not	UNFEIGNED UNKEMPT UNWITTING	not pretended; real not combed; dishevelled not knowing; unintentional
under	below	UNDERGIRD UNDERLING	strengthen underneath someone inferior
uni	one	UNISON UNICYCLE UNIQUE	oneness of pitch; complete accord one-wheeled vehicle one of its kind
vice	in place of	VICARIOUS VICEROY	acting as a substitute governor acting in place of a king
with	away, against	WITHHOLD WITHSTAND WITHDRAW	hold back; keep stand up against; resist take back

CHAPTER - II

SUFFIXES

In this chapter, some of the most commonly used suffixes are given. Corresponding to the suffix in the first column, its meaning is given in the second column. Given in the third column are words (and their meanings) that contain the corresponding suffix given in the first column.

able, ible	capable of (adjective suffix)	POTABLE PORTABLE INTERMINABLE LEGIBLE	which can be drunk able to be carried not able to be limited able to be read
ac, ic	like, pertaining to (adj. suffix)	CARDIAC AQUATIC DRAMATIC	pertaining to the heart pertaining to the water pertaining to the drama
aculous, iclous	full of (adj. suffix)	AUDACIOUS PERSPICACIOUS AVARICIOUS	full of dareness full of mental perception full of greed
al	pertaining to (adj or noun suffix)	MANIACAL LOGICAL	insane pertaining to logic
ant, ent	full of (adj. or noun suffix)	ELOQUENT SUPPLIANT VERDANT	pertaining to fluid, effective speech pleader green
ary	like, connected with (adj. or noun suffix)	DICTIONARY HONORARY LUMINARY	book connected with words with honour celestial body
ate	to make (verb suffix)	CONSECRATE ENERVATE MITIGATE	to make holy to make weary to make less severe
ation	that which is (noun suffix)	EXASPERATION IRRITATION	
cy	state of being (noun suffix)	DEMOCRACY OBSTINACY ACCURACY	government ruled by the people stubbornness correctness
eer, er, or	person who (noun suffix)	MUTINEER LECHER CENSOR	person who rebels person who lusts person who deletes improper remarks
escent	becoming (adj. suffix)	EVANESCENT PUBESCENT	tending to vanish arriving at puberty
fic	making, doing (adj. suffix)	TERRIFIC SOPORIFIC	arousing great fear causing sleep
fy	to make (verb suffix)	PETRIFY BEAUTIFY	turn to stone make beautiful
iferous	producing, bearing (adj. suffix)	PESTIFEROUS VOCIFEROUS	carrying disease bearing a loud voice

il, ile	pertaining to, capable of (adj. suffix)	PUERILE DUCTILE CIVIL	pertaining to a boy or child capable of being hammered polite
ism	doctrine, belief (noun suffix)	MONOTHEISM FANATICISM	belief in one god excessive zeal; extreme belief
ist	dealer, door (noun suffix)	FASCIST	one who believes in a fascist state
ity	state of being (noun suffix)	ANNUITY CREDULITY SAGACITY	yearly grant state of being unduly willing to believe wisdom
ive	like (adj. suffix)	EXPENSIVE QUANTITATIVE EFFUSIVE	costly concerned with quantity gushing
ize, ise	make (verb suffix)	VICTIMIZE RATIONALIZE HARMONIZE ENFRANCHISE	make a victim of make rational make harmonious make free or set free
oid	resembling, like (adj. suffix)	OVOID ANTHROPOID SPHEROID	like an egg resembling man resembling a sphere
ose	full of (adj. suffix)	VERBOSE	full of words
osis	condition (noun suffix)	PSYCHOSIS NEUROSIS HYPNOSIS	diseased mental condition nervous condition condition of induced sleep
ous	full of (adj. suffix)	NAUSEOUS LUDICROUS	full of nausea foolish
tude	state of (noun suffix)	FORTITUDE BEATITUDE CERTITUDE	state of strength state of blessedness state of sureness

CHAPTER - III

COMMON ROOTS

In this chapter, some of the most commonly used Roots are given. Corresponding to the Root in the first column, its meaning is given in the second column. Given in the third column are words (and their meanings) that contain the corresponding Root given in the first column.

ac, acr	sharp	ACRIMONIOUS ACERBITY ACIDULATE	bitter, caustic bitterness of temper to make somewhat acid or sour
aev, ev	age, era	PRIMEVAL COEVAL MEDIEVAL or MEDIAEVAL	of the first age of the same age or era of the middle ages
agog	leader	DEMAGOGUE PEDAGOGUE	false leader of people teacher (leader of children)
agaro	to discuss or speak	PANEGYRIC	formal praise
ali	another	ALIAS ALIENATE	assumed (another) name estrangle (turn away from another)
alt	high	ALTITUDE ALTIMETER	height instrument for measuring height
alter	other	ALTRUISTIC ALTER EGO	unselfish, considering others a second self
am	love	AMOROUS AMITY AMICABLE	loving, especially sexually friendship friendly
anim	mind, soul	ANIMADVERT UNANIMOUS MAGNANIMITY	cast criticism upon of one mind greatness of mind or spirit
ann, enn	year	ANNUITY BIENNIAL PERENNIAL	yearly remittance every two years present all years; praising for several years
anthrop	man	ANTHROPOLOGY MISANTHROPE PHILANTHROPY	study of man hater of mankind love of mankind; charity
apt	fit	APTITUDE APT	skill suitable
aqua	water	AQUEDUCT AQUA FORTIS	passageway for conducting water nitric acid (strong water)
arch	ruler, first	ARCHAEOLOGY	study of antiquities (study of first things)

		MONARCH ANARCHY	sole ruler lack of government
aster	star	ASTRONOMY ASTERIK DISASTER	study of the stars star-like type character (*) catastrophe (contrary star)
aud, audit	hear	AUDIBLE AUDITORIUM AUDIENCE	able to be heard place where people may be heard hearers
auto	self	AUTOCRACY AUTOMOBILE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AUTONOMY AUTOMATION	rule by one person (self) vehicle that moves by itself story of one's own life the power or right of self government a self moving machine
belli	war	BELLICOSE BELLIGERENT REBELLIOUS	inclined to fight inclined to wage war resisting authority
ben, bon	good	BENEFACTOR BENEVOLENCE BONUS	one who does good deeds charity (wishing good) something extra above regular pay
biblio	book	BIBLIOGRAPHY BIBLIOPHILE BIBLE	list of books lover of books The Book
bio	life	BIOGRAPHY BIOLOGY BIOCHEMIST	writing about a person's life study of living things student of the chemistry of living things
breve	short	BREVITY ABBREVIATE BREVILOQUENT	briefness shorten marked by brevity of speech
bucolics	a herdsman	BUCOLIC	pertaining to the tending cattle, rustic, countrified
cad, cas	to fall	DECADENT CADENCE CASCADE	deteriorating intonation, musical movement waterfall
cap, capt, cept, cip	to take	CAPTURE PARTICIPATE PRECEPT	seize take part wise saying (originally a command)
capit, capt	head	DECAPITATE	remove (cut off) someone's head
carn	flesh	CAPTAIN CARNIVOROUS CARNAGE CARNAL	chief flesh-eating destruction of life fleshly

ced, cess	to yield, to go	RECEDE ANTECEDENT PROCESS	go back, withdraw that which goes before go forward
cele	swift	CELERITY DECELERATE ACCELERATE	swiftness reduce swiftness increase swiftness
cent	one hundred	CENTURY CENTENNIAL CENTIPEDE	one hundred years hundredth anniversary many-footed, wingless animal
chron	time	CHRONOLOGY ANACHRONISM CHRONICLE	time-table of events a thing out of time sequence register events in order of time
clan	secret	CLANDESTINE	secret, something done in a sly manner
cid, cis	to cut, to kill	INCISION HOMICIDE FRATRICIDE INFANTICIDE PESTICIDE UXORICIDE SORORICIDE	a cut (surgical) killing of a man killing of a brother killing of an infant that which kills pests killing of wife killing of a sister
cit, citat	to call, to start	INCITE EXCITE RECITATION	stir up, start up stir up a recalling (or repeating) aloud
civi	citizen	CIVILIZATION CIVILIAN CIVIL	society of citizens, culture member of community courteous
clam, clamat	to cry out	CLAMOROUS DECLAMATION ACCLAMATION	loud speech shouted approval
claud, claus, clos, clud	to close	CLAUSTROPHOBIA CONCLUDE	fear of closed places finish
clavis	key	ENCLAVE CONCLAVE	territory locked within a foreign country meeting held in a closed room
cognosc, cognit	to learn	AGNOSTIC INCOGNITO COGNITION	lacking knowledge, skeptical travelling in assumed name knowledge
compl	to fill	COMPLEMENT COMPLY	that which completes something fulfil
cord	heart	ACCORD CORDIAL DISCORD	agreement (from the heart) friendly lack of harmony

corpor	body	INCORPORATE CORPOREAL CORPSE	organize into a body pertaining to the body, fleshly dead body
cracy	rule	THEOCRACY GERONTOCRACY PLUTOCRACY BUREAUCRACY GYNAECOCRACY OCHLOCRACY KAKISTOCRACY TIMOCRACY	that constitution of state in which god is regarded as sole sovereign government by old men. government by the wealthy a system of government by officials, responsible only to their departmental chief government by women mob rule government by the worst a form of government in which property is the quality for office
cred, credit	to believe	INCREDULOUS CREDULITY CREDENCE	not believing, skeptical gullibility belief
culpa	fault, blame	EXCULPATE CULPABLE CULPRIT	free from blame which can be punished one who is at fault
cur	to care	CURATOR SINECURE SECURE	person who has the care of something position without responsibility safe
curr, curs	to run	EXCURSION CURSORY PRECURSOR	journey brief forerunner
da, dat	to give	DATA MANDATE DATE	facts, statistics command given time
deb, debit	to owe	DEBT INDEBTEDNESS DEBENTURE	something owed debt bond
dem	people	DEMOCRACY DEMAGOGUE EPIDEMIC	rule of the people (false) leader of the people widespread (among the people)
derm	skin	EPIDERMIS PACHYDERM DERMATOLOGY	skin thick-skinned quadruped study of skin and its disorders
detergere	to rub or wipe away	DETERGENT TERCE	a cleansing agent that which is smooth or clean-cut

di, diurn	day	DIARY DIURNAL	a daily record of activities, feelings etc. pertaining to daytime
dic, dict	to say	ABDICATE DICTION	renounce speech
doc, doct	to teach	DOCILE DOCUMENT DOCTOR	obedient; easily taught something that provides evidence learned person (originally teacher)
domin	to rule	DOMINATE DOMAIN DOMINANT	have power over land under rule prevailing
dour	hard, severe, sour (in appearance)	OBDURATE DURESS INDURATED	hard to move; obstinate under threat or coercion morally hardened or callous
dubit	doubt	INDUBITABLY	doubtlessly
duc, duct	to lead	VIADUCT AQUEDUCT	arched roadway artificial waterway
dynam	power, strength	DYNAMIC DYNAMITE DYNAMO	powerful powerful explosive engine making electrical power
ego	I	EGOIST EGOTIST EGOCENTRIC	person who is self-interested selfish person revolving about self
erg, urg	work	ENERGY ERGATOCRACY	power rule of the workers
err	to wander	ERROR ERRATIC KNIGHT-ERRANT	mistake not reliable, wandering wandering knight
eu	good, well, beautiful	EUPEPTIC EULOGIZE EUPHEMISM	having good digestion praise substitution of pleasant way of saying something blunt
fac, fic, fec, fect	to make, to do	FACTORY FICTION AFFECT	place where things are made manufactured story cause to change
fall, fals	to deceive	FALLACIOUS INFALLIBLE FALSIFY	misleading not prone to error, perfect lie
fer, lat	to bring, to bear	TRANSLATE CONIFER	bring from one language to another bearing cones, as pine trees
fiat, fac, fig, fy, fact, fect	to do or make	FACTIOUS	making trouble, causing

		FACTITIOUS	dissension made up or artificial, spurious
		SURFEIT	overdoing, an excess
		FETISH	blind or unreasoning affection; something regarded with irrational reverence
		FEASIBLE	practicable, workable
		MALFEASANCE	wrong doing especially official misconduct
		INDEFEASIBLE	which cannot be defeated or undone
fid	belief, faith	INFIDEL	nonbeliever, heathen
		CONFIDENCE	assurance, belief
fin	end, limit	CONFINE	keep within limits
		FINITE	having definite limits
flect, flex	bend	FLEXIBLE	able to bend
		DEFLECT	bend away, turn aside
		GENUFLECT	to bend knees in prayer
fort	strong	FORTUITOUS	strength, firmness of mind
		FORTIFICATION	strengthening
		FORTRESS	stronghold
fort	luck, chance	FORTUITOUS	accidental, occurring by chance
		FORTUNATE	lucky
frag, fract	break	FRAGILE	easily broken
		INFRACTION	breaking of a rule
		FRACTION	unruly, tending to break rules
		REFRACT	to deflect, to break
fugere	flee	FUGITIVE	someone who flees
		REFUGE	shelter, home for someone fleeing
fus	pour	EFFUSIVE	gushing, pouring out
		DIFFUSE	widespread (poured in many directions)
gam	marriage	MONOGAMY	marriage to one person
		BIGAMY	marriage to two people at the same time
		POLYGAMY	having many wives or husbands at the same time
gen, gener	class, race	GENUS	group of animals with similar traits
		GENERIC	characteristic of a class
		GENDER	class organized by sex
gen	to give birth to	GENE	unit or factor of heredity
		CONGENITAL	existing from birth
		GENEALOGY	study of the family tree
		PSYCHOGENIC	born in or caused by the mind
grad, gress	go, step	DIGRESS	to astray (from the

		REGRESS GRADUAL	main point) go backwards step by step, by degrees
graph, gram	writing	EPIGRAM TELEGRAM	pithy statement instantaneous message over great distance
		STENOGRAPHY	shorthand (writing narrowly)
greg	flock, herd	GREGARIOUS EGREGIOUS	tending to group together as in a herd conspicuously bad; shocking
helio	sun	HELIOTROPE HELIOGRAPH	flower that faces the sun instrument that uses the sun's rays to send signals
hemera	day	EPHEMERAL	short lived
icon	image, a statue	ICONOCLAST	one who attacks cherished beliefs or one who does not respect conventional ideas
it, itiner	journey, road	EXIT ITINERARY	way out plan of journey
jac, jact, jec	to throw	PROJECTILE TRAJECTORY EJACULATORY	missile; something thrown forward path taken by thrown object casting or throwing out
jur, jurat	to swear	PERJURE JURY ADJURATION	testify falsely group of men and women sworn to seek the truth solemn urging
labor, laborat	to work	COLLABORATE LABORIOUS	work together with others difficult
leg, lect, lig	to choose, to read	ELECTION LEGIBLE ELIGIBLE	choice able to read able to be selected
leg	law	LEGISLATURE LEGITIMATE LEGAL	law-making body lawful lawful
liber, libr	Book	LIBRETTO LIBEL	the "book" of a musical play slander (originally found in a little book)
liber	free	LIBERATION LIBERAL	the fact of setting free generous (giving freely); tolerant
log	word, study	ENTOMOLOGY	study of insects

		ETYMOLOGY	study of word parts and derivations
		MONOLOGUE	speech by one person
loqu, locut	to talk	SOLILOQUY	speech by one individual
		LOQUACIOUS	talkative
		ELOCUTION	speech
luc	light	ELUCIDATE	enlighten
		LUCID	clear
		TRANSLUCENT	allowing some light to pass through
magn	great	MAGNIFY	enlarge
		MAGNANIMITY	generosity, greatness of soul
mal	bad	MALEVOLENT	wishing evil
		MALEDICTION	curse
		MALEFACTOR	evil-doer
		MALIGNANT	disposed to do harm
man	hand	MANUSCRIPT	written by hand
		EMANCIPATE	free (let go from the hand)
mar	sea	MARITIME	connected with seafaring
		SUBMARINE	undersea craft
		MARINER	seaman
mater, matr	mother	MATERNAL	pertaining to motherhood
		MATRIARCH	female ruler of a family, group, or state
		MATRILINEAL	descended on the mother's side
mendicus	poor man	MENDICANT	beggar
mens	measure	MENSURATION	the act of finding by measurement and calculation, the length, area, volume of bodies that which cannot be measured
		IMMEASURABILITY	
mit, miss	to send	MISSILE	projectile
		TRANSMIT	send across
mime	an actor who mimics or imitates	MIMESIS	imitation
		PANTOMIME	acting that is unaccompanied by words
mob, mot, mov	move	MOBILIZE	cause to move
		MOTILITY	ability to move
		IMMOVABLE	not able to be moved
mon, monit	to warn	ADMONISH	warn
		PREMONITION	foreboding
		MONITOR	watcher (warner)
mori, mort	to die	MORTUARY	funeral parlour
		MORIBUND	dying
		IMMORTAL	not dying

morph	shape, form	ANTHROPOMORPHIC	in the shape of man
mut	change	IMMUTABLE	not able to be changed
		MUTATE	undergo a great change
		MUTABILITY	changeableness, inconsistency
nat	born	INNATE	from birth
		NATIVITY	birth
nav	ship	CIRCUMNAVIGATE	sail around the world
		NAVAL	pertaining to ships
neg	deny	NEGATION	denial
		RENEGE	deny, go back on one's word
		RENEGADE	turncoat, traitor
nomen	name	NOMENCLATURE	act of naming, terminology
		NOMINAL	in name only (as opposed to actual)
		COGNOMEN	surname, distinguishing nickname
nov	new	NOVICE	beginner
		RENOVATE	make new again
		NOVELTY	newness
oikos	dwelling	ECOLOGY	a study of plants or animals or of people and institutions in relation to environment
		ECUMENIC	general, universal
		ECONOMICS	study of house hold management
onoma, onyma	name	ANONYMOUS	unnamed
		HOMONYM	a word having the same sound and perhaps the same spelling as another but different meaning and origin
			the formation of a word in limitation of the sound of the thing meant
		ONOMATOPOEIA	
		PARONOMASIA	a play upon words
		PATRONYMIC	derived from the name of a father or an ancestor
		PSEUDONYM	a fictitious name assumed
oper	to work	PARONYM	a word from the same root or having the same sound as another
pac	peace	COOPERATION	working together
		PACIFY	make peaceful
		PACIFIC	peaceful
para	contrary to	PACIFIST	person opposed to war
para	contrary to	PARADOX	that which is contrary to receive opinion
pass	feel	DISPASSIONATE	free of emotion
		IMPASSIONED	emotion-filled

		IMPASSIVE	showing no feeling
pater, patr	father	PATRIOTISM	love of one's country (fatherland)
		PATRIARCH	male ruler of a family, group or state
		PATERNITY	fatherhood
path	disease, feeling	PATHOLOGY	study of diseased tissue
		APATHETIC	lacking feeling; indifferent
		ANTIPATHY	hostile feeling
ped, pod	foot	IMPEDIMENT	stumbling-block; hindrance
		QUADRUPED	four-footed animal
		PEDESTAL	the support of a column, statue etc.
		PEDESTRIAN	on foot, of walking (second meaning - uninspired)
		PEDOMETER	an instrument for counting paces and so approximately measuring distance walked
		PODIUM	a platform, dais
ped	child	PEDAGOGUE	teacher of children
		PAEDIATRICIAN	children's doctor
pel, puls	to drive	COMPULSION	a forcing to do
		EXPEL	drive out, banish
pet, petit	to seek	PETITION	request
		APPETITE	craving, desire
		COMPETITIVE	with others
phil	to love	PHILANTHROPIST	benefactor, lover of humanity
		ANGLOPHILE	lover of everything English
		PHILANDERER	one involved in brief love affairs
		PHILOSOPHER	a lover of wisdom
		PHILATELIST	one who loves collecting stamps
phoebe	fear	ASTRAPHOBIA	fear of celestial space
		BALLISTROPHOBIA	fear of missiles
		CLAUSTROPHOBIA	fear of closed place
		ERGOPHOBIA	fear of work
		NYCTOPHOBIA	fear of night
		OCHLOPHOBIA	fear of mob
		PANOPHOBIA	a form of melancholia marked by groundless fears
		PHOTOPHOBIA	fear of light
		SITOPHOBIA	fear of food
		XENOPHOBIA	fear of strangers
		TRICHOPHOBIA	fear of hair
pleos	full	PLENARY	fully attended
		PLENIPOTENTIARY	having full powers
		PLETHORA	over abundance
		PLENITUDE	fullness; completeness

		PLEONASM	a redundancy of words
		PLENUM	fullness
		DEplete	empty
		EXPLETIVES	superfluous use of words
		REPLENISH	fill again
		REPLETE	filled with
pon, posit	to place	POSTPONE	place after
		POSITIVE	definite, unquestioned
port, portat	to carry	PORTABLE	able to be carried
		EXPORT	carry out (of country)
poten	able, powerful	OMNIPOTENT	all-powerful
		POTENTATE	powerful person
		IMPOTENT	powerless
psych	mind	PSYCHOLOGY	study of the mind
		PSYCHOSIS	mental disorder
		PSYCHOPATH	mentally ill person
put, putat	to trim, to calculate	PUTATIVE	supposed (calculated)
		COMPUTATION	calculation
		AMPUTATE	cut off
pyr	fire, heat, fever	ANTIPYRETIC	medicine used against fever
		PYROTECHNICS	the art of making fireworks
		EMPYREAN	formed of pure light or fire pertaining to the highest and purest region of heaven
		PYROGNOSTIC	pertaining to listing of minerals by flame
		PYROLATRY	fire-worship
		PYROBALLGY	the science of artillery
quer, ques, quir, quis	to ask	INQUIRY	investigation
		INQUISITIVE	question
		QUERY	question
robor	strength	CORROBORATION	conformation
reg, rect	rule	REGICIDE	murder of a ruler
		REGENT	ruler
		INSURRECTION	rebellion; overthrow of a ruler
rid, ris	to laugh	DERISION	scorn
		RISIBILITY	inclination to laughter
		RIDICULOUS	deserving to be laughed at
rog, rogat	to ask	INTERROGATE	question
		PREROGATIVE	privilege
rupt	to break	INTERRUPT	break into
		BANKRUPT	insolvent
		RUPTURE	a break
sacr	holy	SACRILEGIOUS	impious, violating something holy
		SACRAMENT	religious act
sci	to know	OMNISCIENT	knowing all
		CONSCIOUS	aware

scop	watch, see	PERISCOPE MICROSCOPE	device for seeing around corners device for seeing small objects
scrib, script	to write	TRANSCRIBE CIRCUMSCRIBE	make a written copy write around, limit
sect	cut	DISSECT BISECT	cut apart cut into two pieces
ced, sess	to sit	SEDENTARY SESSION	inactive (sitting) meeting
sent, sens	to think, to feel	CONSENT RESENT	agree show indignation
sequi, secut, seque	to follow	CONSECUTIVE SEQUEL NON SEQUITUR	following in order that which follows something that does not follow logically
solv, solut	to loosen	ABSOLVE DISSOLUTE ABSOLUTE	free from blame morally lax complete (not loosened)
somn	sleep	INSOMNIA SOMNOLENT SOMNAMBULIST	inability to sleep sleepy sleepwalker
soph	wisdom	SOPHISTICATED	worldly wise
spec, spect	to look at	SPECTATOR CIRCUMSPECT	observer cautious (looking around)
spir	breathe	SPIRITED	full of life (breath)
string, strict	bind	STRINGENT CONSTRUCT STRICTURE	strict become tight limit, something that restrains
stru, struct	build	CONSTRUCTIVE CONSTRUE	helping to build analyze (how something is built)
suit (sal, sil, sault)	jump or leap	RESILIENT EXULTANT SALIENT SOMERSAULT DESULTORY ASSAULT	capable of gaining its original shape rejoicing, triumphant (jumping out of one's skin with joy) that which leaps at you i.e. important to leap or jump while turning the heels over jumping from one thing to another without rational or logical connection jumping towards (i.e. attack)
tang, tact, ting	to touch	TANGENT CONTINGENT	Touching depending upon
tempor	time	CONTEMPORARY	at same time

		EXTEMPORANEOUS TEMPORIZE TEMPORAL	impromptuous delay pertaining to time
ten, tent	to hold	TENABLE TENURE RETENTIVE	able to be held holding of office holding; having good memory
term	end	INTERMINABLE TERMINATE	endless end
terr	land	TERRESTRIAL SUBTERRANEAN	pertaining to earth underground
therm	heat	THERMOSTAT DIATHERMY	instrument that regulates heat sending heat through body tissues
tome	a slice, a piece cut off	EPITOME ECTOMY	embodiment (after cutting off non-essential material or condensation) surgical cutting eg. appendectomy
tors, tort	twist	DISTORT TORSION TORTUOUS RETORT CONTORT EXTORT NASTURTIIUM	twist out of true shape or meaning act of twisting twisting to twist back a reply, to answer sharply or wittily to twist together or upon itself to twist out by force; to gain by violence or compulsion a nose twister, so named because of its pungent odour
tract	drag, pull	DISTRACT INTRACTABLE	pull (one's attention) away stubborn, unable to be dragged
trud, trus	push, shove	INTRUDE PROTRUSION	push one's way in something sticking out
turb	trouble	IMPETURBABLE TURBID	that cannot be disturbed or troubled; calm and serene disordered, troubled, muddy, thick
urb	city	URBAN URBANE SUBURBAN	pertaining to a city polished, sophisticated, pertaining to a city dweller outside of a city
vac	empty	VACUOUS EVACUATE	lacking content, empty- headed compel to empty an area
vad, vas	go	INVADE	enter in a hostile fashion

		EVASIVE	not frank; eluding
veni, vent, ven	to come	INTERVENE CONVENTION	come between meeting
ver	true	VERACIOUS VERIFY VERITY	truthful check the truth truth; most often used in plural and with eternal appearance of truth
		VERISIMILITUDE VERDICT	a true saying; therefore a presumably first judgement made on the basis of verified judgement
verb	word	VERBOSE VERBIAGE	wordy excessive use of words word for word
		VERBATIM	
vers, vert	turn	VERTIGO REVERT	turning dizzy turn back (to an earlier state)
via	way	VIADUCT TRIVIAL	roadway (arched) trifling (small talk at crossroads)
vid, vis	to see	EVIDENCE VISTA	things seen view
vinc, vict, vanq	to conquer	INVINCIBLE VANQUISH	unconquerable defeat
viv, vit	alive	VIVISECTION VIVACIOUS VITALITY	operating on living animals full of life liveliness
voc, vocat	to call	AVOCATION PROVOCATION INVOCATION	calling, minor occupation calling or rousing the anger of calling in prayer
vol	wish	MALEVOLENT VOLUNTARY	wishing someone ill of one's own will
volv, volut	to roll	CONVOLUTION	coiled state

Introduction to Building a Better Vocabulary

"A man with a scant vocabulary will almost certainly be a weak thinker. The richer and more copious one's vocabulary and the greater one's awareness of fine distinctions and subtle nuances of meaning, the more fertile and precise is likely to be one's thinking. Knowledge of things and knowledge of the words for them grow together. If you do not know the words, you can hardly know the thing."

— Henry Hazlitt, *Thinking as a Science*

The primal fear that grips test takers of any competitive exam is the difficulty posed by the language section. Most aspirants feel that mathematics and reasoning can be "managed", but language calls for a little more than an extra mile. While it is a fact that language section most often calls for a much larger preparation base, all is not lost. If you are willing to put in consistent, purposeful, focused effort, you can keep the cake and eat it too!

Following some simple strategies and keeping a good pace with reading would be your first baby step.

1. Reading

Dedicate atleast an hour to reading. While the benefits of reading are extensively discussed in your Reading Comprehension class, its contribution to vocabulary building cannot be overstressed. As you read, do not look up the dictionary to know the meaning of every word the meaning of which you do not know. Cultivate the habit of

“deciphering” the meaning. Keep a pencil in your hand and mark at the margin when you come across a difficult word. Continue reading, and guess the meaning of the word using contextual cues. Please ensure that you read a variety of subjects. This will help you familiarise yourself with an assortment of jargon.

2. Roots

Learning words through roots is not just enriching but also fun! So it is **two birds in one stone!** One can safely say that at least half of the words in English are derived from Greek and Latin. Knowing the meaning of one root helps to decipher the meaning of all the words formed from that root. The word ‘vocabulary’ itself is from *voc*, a Latin root meaning “word” or “name.” *Advocacy*, *convocation*, *evocative*, *vocal*, and *vociferous* also have the same root.

Word of caution: root words can have more than one meaning and various shades of meaning. In addition, words that look similar may derive from different roots. So roots should be relied on only for a general guidance, and for enhancing your repertoire. The final stop is surely the dictionary.

3. Word Groups/Collocation/Association

Words are meaningless in isolation. Understanding and recognising their collocative and associated usage helps to use them with ease. For e.g., the word ‘eye’ – has at least five hundred words related to it, and more than a hundred idioms/phrases. Here are a few :

<p>couldn't believe eyes cry eyes out cut eyes at cut teeth dollar signs in eyes eagle eye eye candy eye for an eye</p>	<p>eyes are out on stalks eyes like saucers eyes like two burnt holes in a blanket eyes pop out of head feast eyes feast eyes on Fields have eyes, and woods have ears</p>	<p>keep weather eye open lay eyes on look in the eye look in the face make eyes at make sheep's eyes at more than meets the eye naked eye not a dry eye</p>
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4. Prefixes and Suffixes:

Knowing the meanings of prefixes and suffixes also will help you to guess the meanings of words.

Prefixes such as semi, hemi, uni, cent, milli etc denote quantity; counter, de, mis, anti etc denote negation; and so on

5. Dictionary

Be generous with use of dictionary. Make sure that you have a dictionary in every location you are likely to require it. “I’ll look it up later” never works. Stock your car, your college bag, your study room, and your phone with dictionaries.

6. Internet

Judicious use of the internet will improve your vocabulary in leaps and bounds. The internet instantly provides you with origins and usages of words.

7. Eponyms

They are words derived from names of real, fictional, mythical or spurious characters or people. The English language has thousands of such words, and each has a story behind it. For e.g. Quixotic, chauvinist, malapropism, etc are all eponyms.

8. Cue cards

The cue cards that you got along with the study material is a very valuable source of vocabulary enrichment. Read through them everyday, finishing the set in a stipulated time. Then start the cycle again. You will find that with each cycle, your familiarity with words improves.

This handout introduces roots to you. The given list is only a few of the many. Please do not limit your learning to just these words. Please familiarise yourself with the other roots in this alphabet range.

A list of roots covered in VAHO1001607 is given below. A detailed discussion of these roots and sharing of inputs shall take place before the discussion of the questions that follow.

1. De = down, out, away, apart
2. Dis = not, apart
3. Doc/Doct = teach
4. Dol = pain, sorrow
5. Ego = self
6. en = in, into

7. Err = wander
8. Eu = good, well
9. Ex, ec = out, out of
10. Fal/fals = deceive
11. Fid = faith, trust
12. Flu/flux = flow
13. Fore = before
14. Frag/frac = break
15. Fus = pour
16. Gen = birth, class, kin
17. Grad/gress = to step, to go
18. Gram = writing
19. Grat = pleasure
20. Greg = crowd
21. Hol = whole
22. Hypo = under, little
23. It/Iter = between, among
24. Ject/Jet = to throw
25. Jud = judge
26. Jur/jus = law, right
27. Liber = free
28. Lix = speak, speech
29. Loqui = speak
30. Luc = light, shine
31. Lud/ lus = play
32. Magn = great, big
33. Mal = bad
34. Mor = death
35. Mut = change, exchange

A list of roots covered in VAHO1001608 are given below. A detailed discussion of these roots and sharing of inputs shall take place before the discussion of the questions that follow.

1. Neg = not, deny
2. Neo/Nov = new
3. Nihil = home, nothing, destroy
4. Noc/Nic /Nec/ Nox = harm
5. Ob = against
6. Path = feel, emotion
7. Pec = money
8. Ped = child, foot
9. Pend = to hang
10. Phil = to love
11. Phon = sound
12. Prob/Prov = truth, prove
13. Quie = quiet
14. Rect = straight
15. Rid/Ris = laugh
16. Rogat/Rog = ask
17. Rota = wheel, round
18. Scrib/scrip/ scriv = write
19. Sol = sun, alone, solitude
20. Solu/solv = loosen, free
21. Son = sound
22. Soph = wise, sophisticated
23. Spers/Spar = scatter
24. Struct/Stru = build
25. Sub = under
26. Summa = highest
27. Surrect = rise
28. Tang/Tact = touch
29. Term = end
30. Tim = fear
31. Topos = place
32. Tract = draw, pull
33. Trep/Trem = shak, fear
34. Turb = shake, whirling
35. Tuit = watch over

- 36. Umbr = shadow
- 37. Val/ Vail = value, strength
- 38. Van = front
- 39. Ven/Vent/Veni = come
- 40. Ver = ture
- 41. Vert/vers = to turn
- 42. Vid/vis = to see
- 43. Viva/Vita = life, alive
- 44. Voc/Voca/Vok/Vow = call, word
- 45. Vor = eat

Practice Exercise – I

Directions for questions 1 to 5: Each question has a word followed by four choices. From the choices, select the most suitable synonym (word which means the same) for the main word and mark its corresponding letter as your answer.

1. AMALGAMATE
(A) integrate (B) imbue
(C) buttress (D) ostracize
2. CONFLUENCE
(A) crossroads (B) convergence
(C) intersection (D) conflagration
3. EXCULPATE
(A) extirpate (B) excoriate
(C) exonerate (D) extradite
4. BELLICOSE
(A) astute (B) canny
(C) pugnacious (D) oppressive
5. INDOLENT
(A) docile (B) lugubrious
(C) intransigent (D) slothful

Directions for questions 6 to 10: Each question has a word followed by four choices. From the choices, identify the one which is opposite in meaning (antonym) to the main word and mark its corresponding letter as your answer.

6. ACRIMONY
(A) amiability (B) raucousness
(C) tyranny (D) irascibility
7. BEMOAN
(A) berate (B) deplore
(C) applaud (D) bewail
8. CAPITULATE
(A) elevate (B) surrender
(C) enumerate (D) resist
9. INTERMITTENT
(A) sporadic (B) steadfast
(C) fitful (D) incessant
10. DOCTRINAIRE
(A) moderate (B) rebellious
(C) capricious (D) liberal

Directions for questions 11 to 15: Each question has a pair of CAPITALISED words followed by four pairs of words. Choose the pair of words that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed by the capitalized pair.

11. AUTOCRAT : BENEVOLENCE
(A) Recidivist : Compunction
(B) Ascetic : Abstemiousness
(C) Criminal : Acrimony
(D) Connoisseur : Taste
12. COMMODIOUS : EXPANSIVE
(A) Decadent : Repulsive
(B) Squalid : Alluring
(C) Cloistered : Confined
(D) Defiled : Pristine

13. COMPLIANT : RESISTANT
(A) Debilitating : Enervating
(B) Clamorous : Boisterous
(C) Defamatory : Complimentary
(D) Incessant : Relentless
14. EUPHEMISTIC : EXTENUATIVE
(A) Malapropos : Infelicitous
(B) Lucid : Ambiguous
(C) Gratuitous : Prudent
(D) Disingenuous : Veracious
15. ILLUSORY : DECEPTION
(A) Transitory : Impermanence
(B) Judicious : Prudence
(C) Grandiloquent : Deceit
(D) Profound : Flippancy

Directions for questions 16 to 20: Fill in the blanks in the given sentences so as to make sense. Select the correct pair of words from the answer choices and mark its corresponding letter as your answer.

16. Issues of human environmental impacts today tend to be _____, and opinions, about them tend to fall on a spectrum between two _____ camps.
(A) incontrovertible . . . antagonistic
(B) controversial . . . opposite
(C) contradictory . . . inimical
(D) incessant . . . polemical
17. As a first step towards improving bilateral relationships the two countries decided to resolve the _____ dispute in a/an _____ manner.
(A) ambiguous . . . amiable
(B) contradictory . . . execrable
(C) exasperating . . . artful
(D) acrimonious . . . amicable
18. The team received huge _____ from the management for its _____ handling of the crisis.
(A) adulation . . . hamfisted
(B) flak . . . proficient
(C) applause . . . adept
(D) commendation . . . slipshod
19. All hopes of the _____ of hostilities between the two rival nations were quelled by the defence minister's _____ speech.
(A) cessation . . . inciting
(B) termination . . . inflammatory
(C) resurrection . . . conciliatory
(D) interruption . . . incendiary
20. The two leaders belonging to rival parties succeeded in devising a working relationship so as not to _____ the differences which had emerged between them in the _____ election campaign held recently.
(A) amplify . . . acerbic
(B) incite . . . zealous
(C) aggravate . . . fiery
(D) exacerbate . . . rancorous

Directions for questions 21 to 24: State whether the following statements are true or false.

21. A person who is ambivalent is indecisive. Yes/No
22. Avionics is the science of electronics when used in designing and making aircraft. Yes/No
23. An abbot leads a cloistered existence. Yes /No
24. An agnostic is a person who does not believe in the existence of god. Yes/ No

Directions for question 25: Find a one-word substitute for the following phrase.

25. A person who is ungrateful
 (A) infidel
 (B) iconoclast
 (C) insurgent
 (D) ingrate

Directions for questions 26 to 30: In each of the following questions, four words are given. Three of them belong to the same category. Mark the letter corresponding with the 'odd man' as your answer.

26. (A) absolve (B) pardon
 (C) abjure (D) relieve
27. (A) armistice (B) armada
 (C) truce (D) ceasefire
28. (A) anarchy (B) mayhem
 (C) cataclysm (D) lawlessness
29. (A) concord (B) harmony
 (C) accord (D) combat
30. (A) approbation (B) approval
 (C) applause (D) appropriation

Directions for questions 31 to 38: In each of the following questions, the word at the top is used in four different ways, A to D. Choose the option in which the usage of the word is INCORRECT or INAPPROPRIATE.

31. BOUND
 (A) Students are bound to feel nervous before their exams even if they are well prepared.
 (B) There is bound to be stiff opposition from people when the new bill is introduced.
 (C) He is bound and determined to start his own business someday.
 (D) She is so bound in her work that she has no time for any sort of relaxation.
32. ACCOUNT
 (A) The eye witness gave a full account of the incident to the media persons.
 (B) The teachers were asked to account for the dismal results in the board exams.
 (C) On no account should this information be divulged to anyone.
 (D) On all accounts the scenic beauty of Kashmir valley is breathtaking.

33. SCREEN

- (A) He got an opportunity to write for the screen when he was fairly young.
 (B) She suggested that we could screen of part of the room and use it as a makeshift office.
 (C) The investigation was conducted behind a screen of secrecy.
 (D) I have a strong feeling that he is trying to take the blame on himself in order to screen someone

34. CUT

- (A) The young officer cut a fine figure in his army uniform.
 (B) Her family cut up all ties with her because she married against their wish.
 (C) She desperately wants to reduce her weight so she has cut out fatty foods altogether from her diet.
 (D) A. R. Rehman has cut out a niche for himself in the field of music.

35. PIN

- (A) She combed her hair backwards and secured it with a pin.
 (B) Jack managed to grab the thief and pin him against the wall until the police arrived on the scene.
 (C) You can't pin the blame at anyone without verifying facts.
 (D) It is imprudent to pin your hopes on someone to help you out of this situation.

36. FACE

- (A) The Japanese show great courage and fortitude in the face of danger.
 (B) Her parents have set their face against her decision to marry a foreigner.
 (C) Several tribal communities living on these islands have disappeared off the face off the earth.
 (D) John is very frank, if he has something to say, he will say it to people's face.

37. RANK

- (A) Deepak rose through the rank to become the CEO of the company at a fairly young age.
 (B) The United States is in the front rank of world powers.
 (C) The house was hidden from view by a serried rank of trees.
 (D) It was rank stupidity on his part to invest all his money in the share market.

38. ACT

- (A) Jane was chosen to act the part of Cinderella in the school play.
 (B) The trapeze act was the highlight of the scintillating performance put up by the circus artists.
 (C) His stint as the Head of the Department will be a hard act to follow.
 (D) The children tend to act out whenever they are left in the care of a nanny.

Directions for questions 39 to 45: Fill in the blanks in the passage below, with the most appropriate word from among the options given for each blank. The right words are the ones used by the author. Be guided by the author's overall style and meaning when you choose your answer.

In Nazi Germany, dysfunctional thinking was (39) in the totalitarian state, its dogma, and its war machine. Today a different dysfunction takes the form of (40) and (41) consumption, its dogma, and the mechanisms by which ever more resources are obtained. Totalitarianism and consumption have led to (42) peculiar to advanced industrial civilization: both are examples of alienation and technology run (43). Just as totalitarianism collapses individuals into "the state", the new ideology of consumption collapses individuals into the desire for what they consume, even as it (44) the assumption that we are separate from the earth. It is this strange and (45) way of thinking about our relationship to the physical world that is our real enemy.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 39. (A) revered | (B) institutionalized |
| (C) condemned | (D) denounced |
| 40. (A) restrained | (B) exorbitant |
| (C) ravenous | (D) unwarranted |
| 41. (A) injudicious | (B) inordinate |
| (C) imprudent | (D) insatiable |
| 42. (A) crises | (B) cataclysms |
| (C) upheavals | (D) incursions |
| 43. (A) viciously | (B) amok |
| (C) tempestuously | (D) menacingly |
| 44. (A) champions | (B) cultivates |
| (C) endorses | (D) fosters |
| 45. (A) quirky | (B) calamitous |
| (C) destructive | (D) noxious |

Practice Exercise – 2

Directions for questions 1 to 5: Each question has a word followed by four choices. From the choices, select the most suitable synonym (word which means the same) for the main word and mark its corresponding letter as your answer.

- APPROBATION
(A) denunciation (B) endorsement
(C) obsequiousness (D) condemnation
- CONTRAVENE
(A) debunk (B) refute
(C) acquiesce (D) flout
- ITINERANT
(A) languid (B) capricious
(C) peripatetic (D) erratic
- MALODOROUS
(A) alluring (B) enchanting
(C) putrid (D) redolent
- LUDICROUS
(A) risible (B) incredulous
(C) disjointed (D) conceited

Directions for questions 6 to 10: Each of the following questions has a word followed by four choices. From the choices identify the one which is opposite in meaning (antonym) to the main word and mark its corresponding letter as your answer.

- AGGRIEVE
(A) mollycoddle (B) please
(C) restrain (D) beguile
- GREGARIOUS
(A) odious (B) taciturn
(C) imperious (D) hubristic
- BONHOMIE
(A) bondage (B) coldness
(C) malice (D) affinity
- MEDIOCRE
(A) prosaic (B) outstanding
(C) exceptionable (D) pedestrian

- PROLIX
(A) turgid (B) periphrastic
(C) concise (D) discursive

Directions for questions 11 to 15: In each of the following questions, a word is given with certain letters missing. This is followed by a synonym of what the word means. Use this clue to fill in the missing letters and complete the word.

- c _ t _ _ l _ c (8 letters)
Clue: All embracing; of wide sympathies or interests.
- a _ _ i _ a _ e (8 letters)
Clue: Give up or renounce
- f _ _ e _ i _ y (8 letters)
Clue: Strict conformity to truth or fact.
- d _ p _ a _ i _ y (9 letters)
Clue: Moral turpitude
- g _ a _ u _ t _ (8 letters)
Clue: Money given in recognition of services

Directions for questions 16 to 20: In each of the following questions, a capitalised pair of words is given followed by four pairs of words. Three of the pairs exhibit the same relationship between the words as the capitalised pair of words. Identify the pair which does not exhibit the same relationship as the capitalised pair and mark its corresponding letter as your answer.

- TORTUOUS : SINUOUS
(A) Circumspect : Cautious
(B) Pugnacious : Amatory
(C) Obsolete : Antiquated
(D) Caustic : Scathing
- MISANTHROPIC : RANCOUR
(A) Prudent : Circumspection
(B) Embodied : Incarnation
(C) Cloistered : Seclusion
(D) Incredible : Disbursement

18. REGICIDE : KING

- (A) Fratricide : Brother
- (B) Parricide : Parents
- (C) Filicide : Sibling
- (D) Uxoricide : Wife

19. TROJAN HORSE : PERFIDY

- (A) Cornucopia : Bounty
- (B) Chimera : Illusion
- (C) Phoenix : Immortality
- (D) Frankenstein : Candour

20. JETTISON : DISCARD

- (A) Inculcate : Absolve
- (B) Bowlderize : Expurgate
- (C) Elucidate : Explicate
- (D) Disgorge : Regurgitate

Directions for questions 21 to 25: Each question has a sentence with two blanks followed by four pairs of words as choices. From among the choices, select the pair of words that can best complete the given sentence.

21. In spite of possessing an enviable _____, rarely does he indulge in _____.

- (A) lexis . . . logomachies
- (B) deportment . . . eugenics
- (C) epistemology . . . prologues
- (D) egotism . . . polemics

22. Abraham Lincoln is known to have _____ in his childhood and it is no accident that he went on to become a/an _____.

- (A) amnesia . . . alumnus
- (B) lucubrated . . . luminary
- (C) perspicuity . . . protagonist
- (D) ergophobia . . . democrat

23. In his weekly homily, the _____ cautioned us against treating anything in creation as _____, since every creation of God has a definite purpose.

- (A) progenitor . . . congenial
- (B) nestor . . . stygian
- (C) inductor . . . defunct
- (D) lector . . . jetsam

24. He has a _____ nature, but his job requires him to be _____.

- (A) naïve . . . insouciant
- (B) caddish . . . judicious
- (C) docile . . . doctrinaire
- (D) gregarious . . . prescient

25. People with _____ alone know the difference between confidence and haughtiness although both appear _____.

- (A) amity . . . dour
- (B) sagacity . . . cognate
- (C) prudence . . . morose
- (D) declivity . . . infallible

Directions for questions 26 to 30: In each of the following questions, four choices are given. Three of them belong to the same category. Mark the letter corresponding with the 'odd man' as your answer.

26. (A) diffidence (B) reticence
(C) reserve (D) effusion

27. (A) foreboding (B) caveat
(C) premonition (D) presentiment

28. (A) entreaty (B) appeal
(C) insinuation (D) imploration

29. (A) turgid (B) diaphanous
(C) gossamer (D) translucent

30. (A) amorphous (B) nascent
(C) nebulous (D) vague

Directions for questions 31 to 38: In each of the following questions, the word at the top is used in four different ways, A to D. Choose the option in which the usage of the word is INCORRECT or INAPPROPRIATE.

31. DRAW

- (A) People in remote villages have to draw water from wells even to this day.
- (B) He cannot be fooled so easily, he is always quick in the draw.
- (C) You cannot draw any salary for the first six months when you are on probation.
- (D) Jane Austen's novels draw heavily on her personal life.

32. HOME

- (A) We had to put a lot of things in place before we were home and dry.
- (B) John is content looking after the kids while his wife brings home the bacon.
- (C) The visuals brought home to us the extent of the disaster.
- (D) Hyderabad, which is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in India, is a home to people of diverse cultures.

33. EFFECT

- (A) The change in company procedure will not effect us in anyway.
- (B) The new interest rates come into effect from the beginning of next month.
- (C) Nicotine has an adverse effect on the functioning of the heart.
- (D) All my efforts to persuade him to change his plan had little effect.

34. GROUND

- (A) The bank offers loans for small companies to get off the ground.
- (B) The charismatic young leader's progressive ideas have a lot of support on the ground.
- (C) Despite all the persuasions and threats she stood her ground.
- (D) She worked herself to the ground and in the process ruined her health.

35. GAME

- (A) Hunting game was the favourite pastime of the royalty.
- (B) Unlike most other games, chess which is a game of skill is intellectually stimulating.
- (C) I was aware that the task was very challenging but I was game for it.
- (D) We planned a surprise party for Jim but Susan gave the game off by giggling.

36. FORM

- (A) The team was in superb form and ready for the tournament.
- (B) As the fog cleared, the distant hills and trees began to take form.
- (C) Samir's boss warned him that if he didn't form up, he would be dismissed.
- (D) True to form Sheela was late by half an hour.

37. DROP

- (A) After the long and arduous trek we were ready to drop by the end of the day.
- (B) There has been a sharp drop in temperatures in the past two weeks.
- (C) He has decided to drop off from active politics owing to ill health.
- (D) I shall drop in at your place on my way home.

38. EDGE

- (A) He always has an edge on his voice when he talks to his subordinates.
- (B) She lives in a quaint little cottage on the edge of the village.
- (C) Environmental degradation is slowly bringing the world to the edge of disaster.
- (D) In terms of experience Sudha has an edge over the other members of the team.

Directions for questions 39 to 45: Fill in the blanks in the passage below, with the most appropriate word from among the options given for each blank. The right words are the ones used by the author. Be guided by the author's overall style and meaning when you choose your answer.

Evil is not self-sustaining that which stands defiantly opposed to reality cannot survive on its own. Its enduring existence requires the (39) of the good. Existentially, the irrational survives (40), by feeding off the rational; intellectually, an irrational idea gains influence (41), by covering itself with a/an (42) of rationality. The weapon necessary to (43) ourselves against evil is justice : the (44) identification of the evil as evil. This means the refusal to grant it, by word or by deed, any moral respectability. It is by scrupulously withholding from the irrational even a crumb of a moral sanction - by rejecting any form of accommodation with the irrational – by forcing the irrational to stand naked and unaided – that one keeps evil (45).

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 39. (A) ratification | (B) acquiescence |
| (C) corroboration | (D) patronage |
| 40. (A) triumphantly | (B) haplessly |
| (C) dispassionately | (D) parasitically |
| 41. (A) fraudulently | (B) fallaciously |
| (C) forebodingly | (D) errantly |
| 42. (A) edifice | (B) modicum |
| (C) veneer | (D) protection |
| 43. (A) obscure | (B) defend |
| (C) strive | (D) conceal |
| 44. (A) categorical | (B) blatant |
| (C) covert | (D) unequivocal |
| 45. (A) indisposed | (B) crippled |
| (C) impotent | (D) incapacitated |

Practice Exercise – 3

Directions for questions 1 to 5: Each of the following questions has a word followed by four choices. From the choices identify the one which is similar in meaning to the main word and mark its corresponding letter as your answer.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. SACRILEGE | |
| (A) disapproval | (B) profanity |
| (C) restriction | (D) castigation |
| 2. SEMINAL | |
| (A) influential | (B) hypothetical |
| (C) pervasive | (D) pertinent |
| 3. INSURGENT | |
| (A) infidel | (B) rationalist |
| (C) pacifist | (D) rebel |
| 4. TACITURN | |
| (A) reticent | (B) hostile |
| (C) hubristic | (D) congenial |
| 5. SUBVERT | |
| (A) intimidate | (B) undermine |
| (C) condescend | (D) vilify |

Directions for questions 6 to 10: Each of the following questions has a word followed by four choices. From the choices identify the one which is opposite in meaning (antonym) to the main word and mark its corresponding letter as your answer.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 6. DESULTORY | |
| (A) superficial | (B) methodical |
| (C) skillful | (D) haphazard |

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 7. TACTILE | |
| (A) robust | (B) enervating |
| (C) intangible | (D) insouciant |
| 8. TREMULOUS | |
| (A) irresolute | (B) presumptuous |
| (C) obdurate | (D) steady |
| 9. URBANE | |
| (A) suave | (B) rational |
| (C) boorish | (D) antiquated |
| 10. CONVIVIAL | |
| (A) jovial | (B) vivacious |
| (C) flamboyant | (D) unfriendly |

Directions for questions 11 to 15: In each of the following questions four choices are given. Three of them belong to the same category. Mark the letter corresponding with the 'odd man' as your answer.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 11. (A) metaphor | (B) quintessence |
| (C) embodiment | (D) epitome |
| 12. (A) corroboration | (B) elucidation |
| (C) validation | (D) confirmation |
| 13. (A) conjecture | (B) surmise |
| (C) speculation | (D) exposition |
| 14. (A) commiserate | (B) wheedle |
| (C) empathize | (D) console |
| 15. (A) exhortation | (B) premonition |
| (C) foreboding | (D) portent |

Directions for questions 16 to 20: Each question has a sentence with two blanks followed by four pair of words as choices. From among the choices, select the pair of words that can best complete the sentence.

16. The assault on freedom of expression on the internet has taken on _____ forms in India, with a regime of arbitrary arrests and censorship orders, _____ a cherished fundamental right.
(A) drastic, undermining
(B) risible, suppressing
(C) ludicrous, demolishing
(D) extreme, obliterating
17. _____ biodiversity and _____ of habitats exact a heavy toll on rural communities for whom local ecosystem resources sustain livelihoods.
(A) Diminishing, degradation
(B) Dwindling, deterioration
(C) Abating, vanishing
(D) Shrinking, erosion
18. The _____ public persona the war coalition leader presents, can be quite different in this situation from the _____ face he shows in private.
(A) suave, stern
(B) charismatic, grim
(C) urbane, gaunt
(D) debonair, deadpan
19. His priority now is the business arena and his favourite _____ a business conference from where he publicly warns governments that appear to be dragging their feet on _____ economic issues.
(A) podium, chronic
(B) lectern, crucial
(C) platform, core
(D) rostrum, exigent
20. Very often people make the mistake of assuming that mutually _____ qualities bear no relationship to one another but in reality these _____ continuously redefine each other.
(A) exclusive, dichotomies
(B) analogous, chasms
(C) complementary, polarities
(D) reciprocal, disjunctions

Directions for questions 21 to 25: Each question has a pair of CAPITALISED words followed by four pairs of words. Choose the pair of words that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed by the capitalized pair.

21. PEDAGOGUE : TEACH
(A) Lyricist : Sing
(B) Clairvoyant : Apprise
(C) Pontiff : Sermonize
(D) Arbiter : Negotiate
22. SEISMIC : EARTHQUAKES
(A) Fluvial : Rivers
(B) Clouds : Pluvial
(C) Insular : Rains
(D) Funicular : Islands
23. ICONOCLAST : SCEPTICISM
(A) Heretic : Conformism
(B) Sophist : Casuistry
(C) Jingoist : Idiosyncrasy
(D) Ideologue : Cynicism

24. IMBECILE : INTELLIGENCE
(A) Virtuoso : Ethics
(B) Diplomat : Tact
(C) Felon : Erudition
(D) Hedonist : Abstemiousness
25. PRODIGAL : THRIFT
(A) Desperado : Fear
(B) Maverick : Rebellion
(C) Reprobate : Morality
(D) Ascetic : Abstemiousness

Directions for questions 26 to 30: State whether the following statements are true or false.

26. A sanctuary is a shelter or a place of safety. Yes/ No
27. Someone who is prescient has a knowledge of things or events before they exist or happen. Yes / No
28. Proscribe is to relieve from a charge of fault or crime. Yes / No
29. A somnambulist is one who walks in his sleep. Yes/ No
30. Something which is contentious is controversial or debatable. Yes/ No

Directions for questions 31 to 38: In each of the following questions, the word at the top is used in four different ways, A to D. Choose the option in which the usage of the word is INCORRECT or INAPPROPRIATE.

31. KEEP
(A) My uncle has a farmhouse in a village, where he keeps goats and chickens.
(B) The workers are demanding a salary which can keep up with inflation.
(C) My neighbour offered to keep the children, while I went shopping.
(D) I could hardly keep out form laughing when she told me how she fell into a puddle of water.
32. MATCH
(A) Shyam and Meera are a perfect match for each other.
(B) Even the best batsman of our team was not a match for Ali who was a formidable batsman of our rival team.
(C) The film may have received rave reviews in all the papers but it failed to match our expectations.
(D) The account given by the two eye witnesses did not match up.
33. LIGHT
(A) Sometimes we light up a solution to the most difficult problem quite by accident.
(B) Empirical evidence has thrown light on the cause of the disease.
(C) In the light of the recent bomb blasts security measures have been beefed up in the city.
(D) I generally prefer a light meal at night.

34. JUMP

- (A) She is always ready to jump at her colleagues even if there is a minor lapse in their work.
- (B) The deal is very attractive I am sure people will jump at it.
- (C) Renu cannot take it if someone criticizes her son, she immediately jumps to his defence.
- (D) I prefer to start for work early every morning so that I can beat the traffic.

35. LOOK

- (A) As soon as Paul entered the room Peter gave him a quizzical look.
- (B) We need to look to ways of improving our business in order to face the stiff competition.
- (C) The young director hoped that critics will look kindly on his debut film.
- (D) I look ahead to hearing a positive reply from you.

36. ISSUE

- (A) The labour union might take an issue with the management on working overtime.
- (B) As the issue is very sensitive it must be broached very tactfully.
- (C) The point at issue is whether the new policy implemented by the government is actually beneficial to the people.
- (D) Her photograph was on the cover page of the latest issue of a leading fashion magazine.

37. MARK

- (A) Although her stint in this organization was rather short, she definitely made a mark on this place.
- (B) Low sales in the past six months have forced companies to mark down the prices of some commodities.
- (C) The police were slow of the mark in nabbing the culprits.
- (D) I would like to give him an award as a mark of appreciation for the commendable work that he has done.

38. LEAD

- (A) I think Mr. Rao is the right person to lead the team.
- (B) He offered to lead us into the auditorium.
- (C) A lead from an informer enabled the police to defuse the bomb on time.
- (D) Team A will lead up the debate by expressing their views.

Directions for questions 39 to 45: Fill in the blanks in the passage below, with the most appropriate word from among the options given for each blank. The right words are the ones used by the author. Be guided by the author's overall style and meaning when you choose your answer.

The greatest (39) to mankind and civilization is the spread of the totalitarian philosophy. Its best ally is not the devotion of its followers but the confusion of its enemies. To fight it, we must understand it. Totalitarianism is collectivism. Collectivism means the subjugation of the individual to a group – whether to a race, class or state does not matter. Collectivism holds that man must be chained to collective action and collective thought for the sake of what is called the "common good". Throughout history no (40) ever rose to power except on the claim of representing "the common good". Napoleon served "the common good" of France. Hitler served "the common good" of Germany. Horrors which no man would dare consider for his own selfish sake are (41) with a clear conscience by "altruists" who (42) themselves by the common good. No tyrant has ever lasted long by force of arms alone. Men have been (43) primarily by spiritual weapons. And the greatest of these is the collectivist doctrine that the supremacy of the state over the individual constitutes the common good. No dictator could rise if men held as a sacred faith the conviction that they have (44) rights of which they cannot be deprived for any cause whatsoever, by any man whatsoever neither by evildoer nor supposed (45).

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 39. (A) plague | (B) threat |
| (C) torment | (D) burden |
| 40. (A) tyrant | (B) sovereign |
| (C) baron | (D) emperor |
| 41. (A) perpetrated | (B) interpreted |
| (C) executed | (D) wreaked |
| 42. (A) propitiate | (B) sustain |
| (C) establish | (D) justify |
| 43. (A) enriched | (B) embittered |
| (C) empowered | (D) enslaved |
| 44. (A) ineluctable | (B) inextinguishable |
| (C) inalienable | (D) intangible |
| 45. (A) benefactor | (B) reprobate |
| (C) prude | (D) debauchee |

Practice Exercise – 4

(Denotations, Connotations, Collocations, Word roots, Head words, Similar words and Dissimilar words)

IMPORTANT POINTS

- (1) This handout consists of words for discussion on denotation, connotation, collocation and vocabulary development methods (head word and root word methods).
- (2) The first set of random words is to facilitate discussion on connotations.
- (3) The subsequent sets are to facilitate discussion on either root-based or head word-based vocabulary development.

SET – I

Directions for questions 1 and 2: Discuss the denotations and positive, negative or neutral connotations of the words given in the box below and from among them, identify the words that can logically fit in the blanks in the sentences that follow (Choose the answer from the given words and only one answer per blank. You may use the appropriate form of the word)

<u>HEAD WORD : DEGENERATE</u>		
innocuous flat unobjectionable jejune	weak banal safe inobnoxious	insipid Innocent painless sapless

1. He was so hungry that he devoured the food served to him although it was absolutely _____.
2. It was a perfectly _____ remark which was not meant to offend anyone.

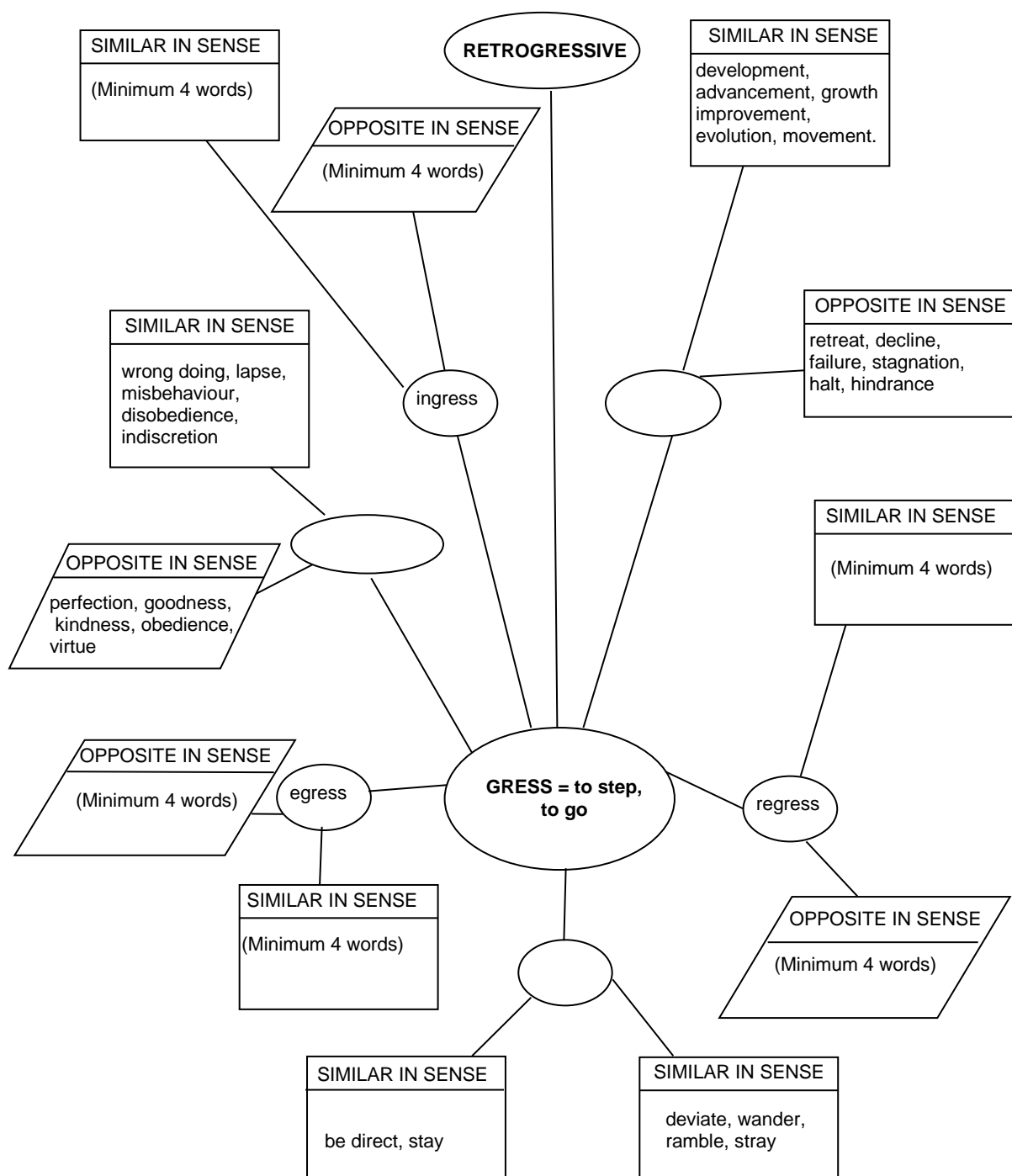
SET – II

Directions for questions 3 and 4: Discuss the meanings of the words in the box given below and identify, from among them, words that can logically fill in the blanks in the sentences that follow (Choose the answers from the given words and only one answer per blank. You may use the appropriate form of the word)

<u>HEAD WORD : DEGENERATE</u>		
corrupt low decadent effete depraved vitiated	dissolute nefarious perverted retrogressive decayed vicious	
<u>OPPOSITE WORD : MORAL</u>		
meritorious kind uncorrupt	virtuous decent dutiful	proper clean elevated

3. The _____ criminal who remained elusive for a long time was finally apprehended by the police.
4. He was so overcome by compunction, for having led a depraved life for several years, that he decided to turn over a new leaf and lead a/an _____ life.

Directions for questions 5 and 6: Fill in the following WORD MAP with words related to the root in the word 'RETROGRESSIVE' and with other related words, and then identify words from among them that can logically fill in the blanks in the sentences that follow (Choose the answer from the given words only, and only one answer per blank. You must use the appropriate form of the word.



5. She is very punctilious and meticulous in whatever she does and expects the same kind of _____ from her subordinates as well.
6. You have to be extremely careful while executing this task because even a minor _____ might turn out to be irreversible.

HOME WORK FOR STUDENTS (SET – II)

Find below some other roots found in some of the words covered in the word map. Meanings of some words related to such roots are provided. Can you guess the word?

I. Clin/cliv = slope, lean	II. De = down, out, away, apart
(a) _____ : leaning, slope	(a) _____ : go away, leave
(b) _____ : lay down, stretch out	(b) _____ : express disapproval, criticize
(c) _____ : slant, gradient	(c) _____ : reduce in quantity or numbers
(d) _____ : penchant, predilection	(d) _____ : spoiling one's reputation
(e) _____ : declination, descent	(e) _____ : spoil the appearance of
III. Mis = wrong, bad, hate	IV. Dis = not a part, away
(a) _____ : one who hates mankind	(a) _____ : clashing, inharmonious
(b) _____ : an unlucky accident	(b) _____ : underrate, villify
(c) _____ : to intercept incorrectly	(c) _____ : prevent, hinder
	(d) _____ : contrasting, diverse
	(e) _____ : disperse, spread
	(f) _____ : amplify, expand
	(g) _____ : squander, waste

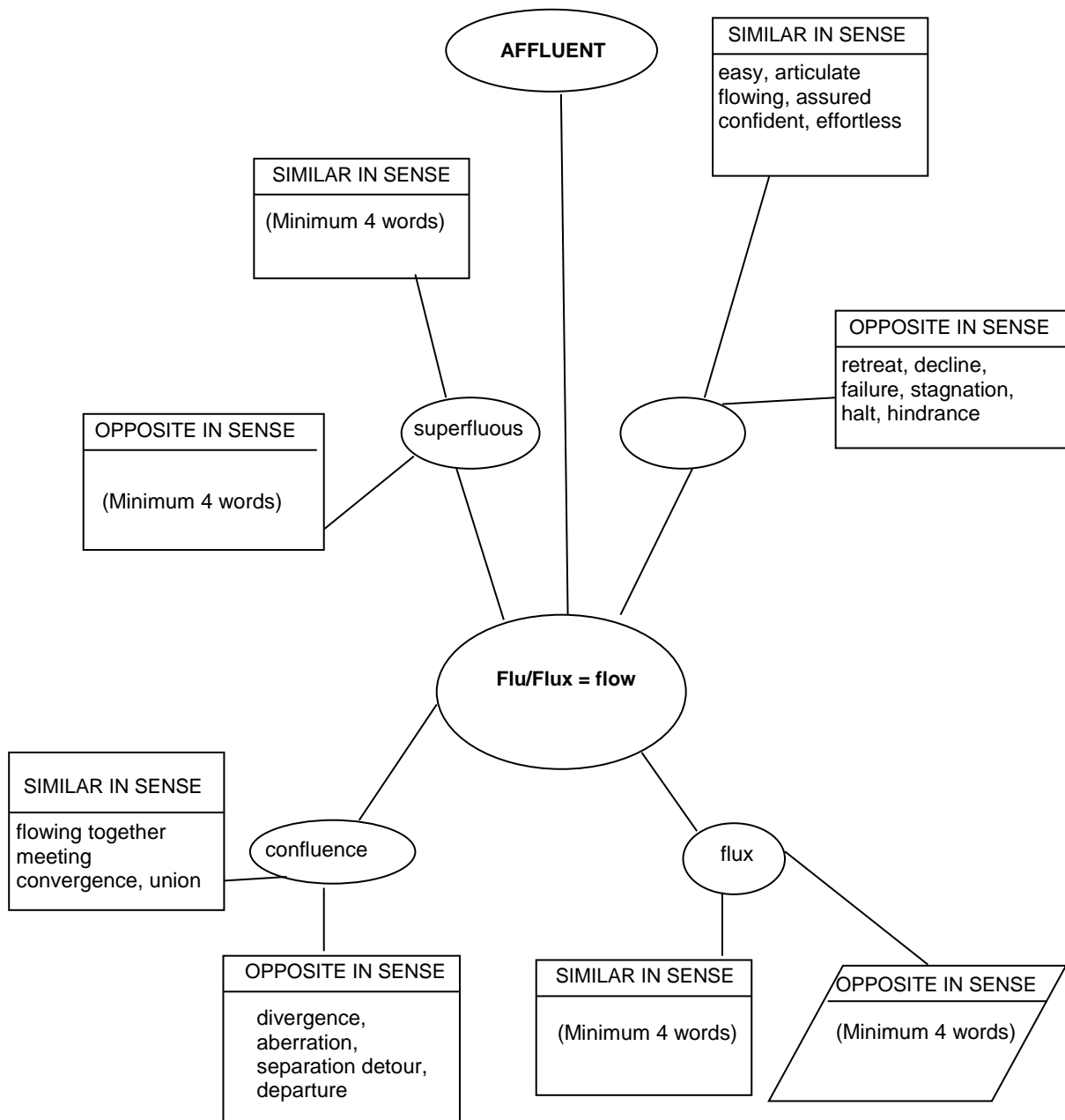
SET – III

Directions for questions 7 and 8: Discuss the meanings of the words in the box given below and identify, from among them words that can logically fit in the blanks in the sentences that follow. (Choose the answers from the given words only, and only one answer per blank. You may use the appropriate form of the word)

<u>HEAD WORD : RICH</u>		
affluent	well-heeled	plush
well-off	wealthy	comfortable
loaded	upscale	prosperous
opulent	cash-rich	moneyed
<u>OPPOSITE WORD : POOR</u>		
Indigent	scanty	impecunious
penurious	destitute	beggarly
bankrupt	pauperized	impoverished
hard up	underprivileged	unprosperous

- His exiguous income was barely sufficient for him to lead a/an _____ life.
- A drought like situation is looming large over the state due to the _____ rainfall received this season.

Directions for questions 9 and 10: Fill in the following WORD MAP with words related to the root in the word 'AFFLUENT' and with other related words, and then identify words from among them that can logically fit in the blanks in the sentences that follow (Choose the answers from the given words only one answer per blank. You may use the appropriate form of the word)



9. We had to take a _____ in order to reach the place as the main road was blocked due to a rally organized by the agitating students of the university.
10. Having revised all the subjects thoroughly, Renu was _____ of performing well in the forthcoming examinations

HOME WORK FOR STUDENTS (SET – III)

I. art/ arti = skill, craft (from articulate)	II. fid = faith, trust (from confident)
(a) _____ : painting, skill	(a) _____ : sure, positive
(b) _____ : false, insincere	(b) _____ : shyness, reserve
(c) _____ : pretense, deception	(c) _____ : disloyal, treacherous
(d) _____ : crafty, devious	(d) _____ : loyalty, faithfulness
(e) _____ : simple, natural	
III. Con/ = with, together (from confluence)	IV. super/ sur = above (from superfluous)
(a) _____ : fellow citizen	(a) _____ : arrogant, haughty
(b) _____ : unite, come together	(b) _____ : succeed, displace
(c) _____ : acquiescent	(c) _____ : extra, redundant
(d) _____ : involvement	(d) _____ : extra, redundant
(e) _____ : agreement, treaty	(e) _____ : insuperable, insoluble
(f) _____ : agree, assent , coincide	

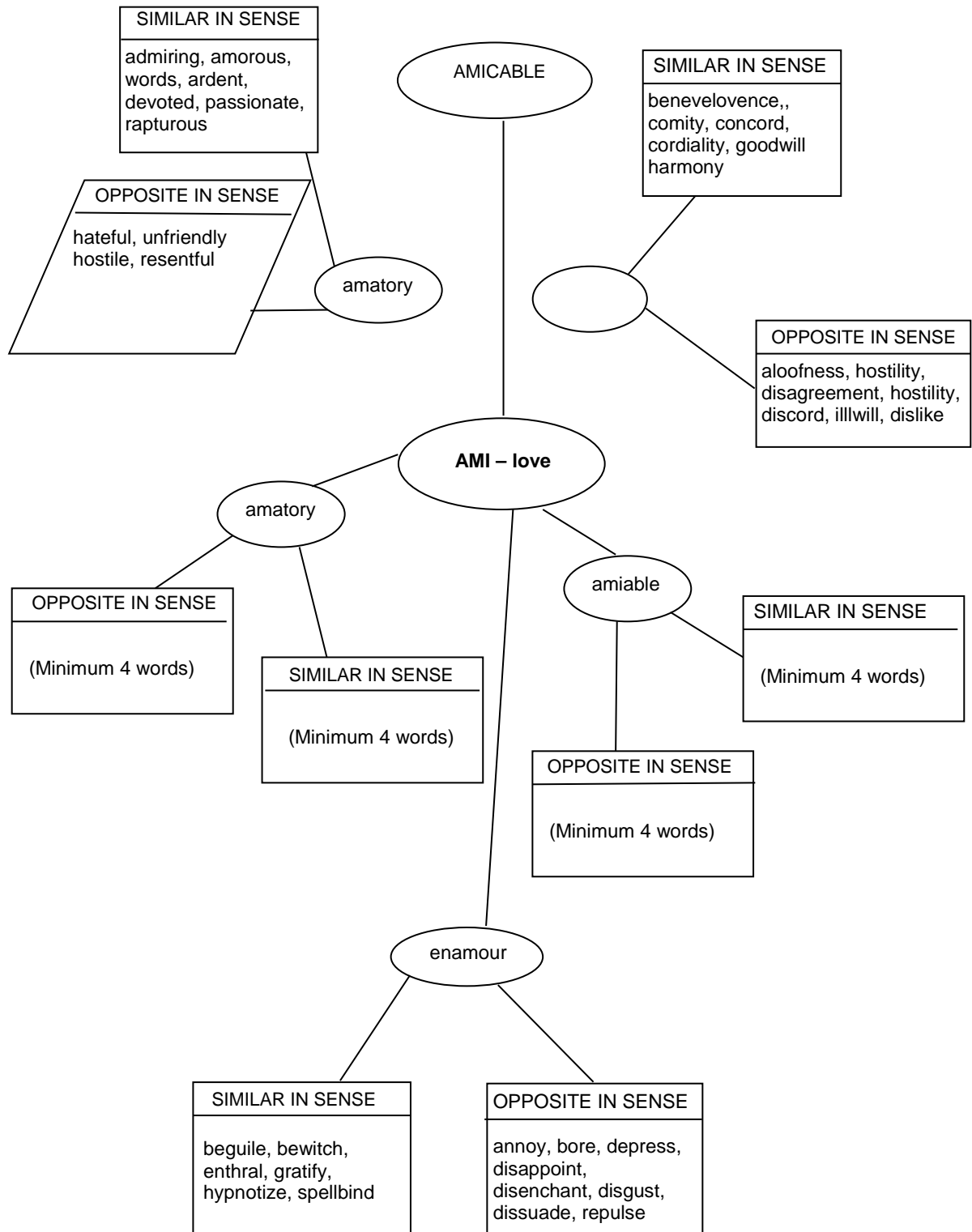
SET – IV

Directions for questions 11 and 12: Discuss the meanings of the words in the box given below and identify, from among them, words that can logically fit in the blanks in the sentences that follow (Choose the answer from the given words and only one answer per blank. You may use the appropriate form of the word)

<u>HEAD WORD : PACIFIC</u>		
soothing	smooth	still
restful	amicable	gentle
conciliating	unruffled	halcyon
peace-loving	composed	still
<u>OPPOSITE WORD: TURBULENT</u>		
warlike	rough	contentious
militant	quarrelsome	combative
belligerent	hostile	sanguinary

11. He often recalls with nostalgia, the _____ days of childhood spent in his native village.

12. Most psychologists believe that people who had a _____ childhood tend to become violent and defiant adults.



HOME WORK FOR STUDENTS (SET – IV)

I. been = good (from benevolence) a) _____ : advantage; gain b) _____ : kindness, charity c) _____ : blessing d) _____ : genuine	II. cord / card = heart (from cordiality) a) _____ : agreement; treaty b) _____ : disagreement; dissonance c) _____ : pleasant, genial d) _____ : basic, fundamental
III. be = to make to have a certain quantity (from beguile) a) _____ : disparage, decry b) _____ : late, delayed c) _____ : lament, bewail d) _____ : make friends with e) _____ : confuse, baffle f) _____ : leave, donate	IV. en = in, into (from enthrall) a) _____ : go into; go through b) _____ : attract; beguile c) _____ : burden hamper d) _____ : widespread, prevalent e) _____ : entrench, establish f) _____ : plead, beseech

13. He was a raconteur par excellence who could hold his audiences _____.

14. The city is a unique blend of cultures where people of different races and ethnic backgrounds live together in perfect _____.

Practice Exercise – 5

Directions for questions 1 to 20: 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) The revised salary will come into **effect** (a) / **affect** (b) from January onwards.

(2) A delicious black **currant** (a) / **current** (b) cake was served as the last course of the meal.

(3) The **venial** (a) / **venal** (b) politician was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe.

(4) The **eminent** (a) / **imminent** (b) cardio-thoracic surgeon won the Surgeon of The Year award.

(A) baaa (B) aaba (C) abbb (D) abba
- (1) The professor made an **illusion** (a) / **allusion** (b) to Milton's Paradise Lost in her lecture.

(2) Her **conscience** (a) / **conscious** (b) prevented her from telling a lie.

(3) The home minister laid a **wreath** (a) / **wreathe** (b) at the war memorial as a tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives defending their country.

(4) I **cited** (a) / **sighted** (b) a famous quotation from Shakespeare before beginning my speech.

(A) baaa (B) abab (C) babb (D) bbba

- (1) Despite all my persuasion I could not **elicit** (a) / **illicit** (b) a favourable response from him.

(2) All citizens of the world must make a **conscious** (a) / **conscience** (b) effort to conserve the earth's finite resources

(3) I am now paying a heavy price for having neglected his wise **council** (a) / **counsel** (b).

(4) All of us in the team resent her **official** (a) / **officious** (b) behaviour.

(A) aaab (B) aaba (C) bbbb (D) aabb
- (1) Ali is such an **ingenious** (a) / **ingenuous** (b) person that he can make veritable pieces of art from the most ordinary materials.

(2) He displayed a remarkable **flair** (a) / **flare** (b) for writing poetry even when he was a child.

(3) All his teachers and friends **complimented** (a) / **complemented** (b) him on his amazing performance.

(4) Good communication skills have become a **perquisite** (a) / **prerequisite** (b) for every job.

(A) abab (B) baab (C) aaab (D) baaa
- (1) His **turgid** (a) / **turbid** (b) style of writing fails to appeal to the ordinary reader.

(2) Due to a major landslide on one of the main ghat roads we were forced to take a **tortuous** (a) / **torturous** (b) route in order to reach our destination.

- (3) The government intends to **proscribe** (a) / **prescribe** (b) the export of life saving drugs.
- (4) Being a woman of **principle** (a) / **principal** (b) she is held in high esteem by her friends and colleagues.
- (A) aaaa (B) abab (C) baaa (D) bbab
6. (1) Some people consider the cracking of a mirror as a **portent**(a) / **potent**(b) of a great disaster.
- (2) Socialism advocates **equable** (a) / **equitable** (b) distribution of wealth.
- (3) The politician's **inflammable** (a) / **inflammatory** (b) speech roused the patriotic spirit of the students.
- (4) Since he could not sustain his family on his **exigent** (a) / **exiguous** (b) income he resorted to taking bribes.
- (A) aabb (B) abbb (C) baab (D) abab
7. (1) We were forced to **alter** (a) / **altar** (b) our plans owing to certain insurmountable circumstances.
- (2) Her performance was so brilliant that even her worst critics could not **forbear** (a) / **forebear** (b) from complimenting her.
- (3) His **ascent** (a) / **assent** (b) to the top-most position in the corporate ladder was due to his sheer diligence, tenacity and self – confidence.
- (4) The rate of inflation, which was **stationary** (a) / **stationery** (b) for several months, escalated suddenly leaving the economy in a shambles.
- (A) aaaa (B) baab (C) abab (D) bbaa
8. (1) The accused waited with **bated** (a) / **baited** (b) breath for the judge to pronounce his verdict.
- (2) A team of experts was sent to the state to **appraise** (a) / **apprise** (b) the damage caused by the floods.
- (3) The **barmy** (a) / **balmy** (b) weather of the country side soothed the frayed nerves of the townsfolk.
- (4) The **serial** (a) / **cereal** (b) killer who remained elusive for a long time was finally apprehended by the police.
- (A) aaba (B) baba (C) bbbb (D) abaa
9. (1) Harish tried to **diffuse** (a) / **defuse** (b) the highly charged atmosphere in the room by cracking a joke.
- (2) Children should be apprised of the importance of **oral** (a) / **aural** (b) hygiene.
- (3) I made **discreet** (a) / **discrete** (b) enquiries about his conduct and character before offering him employment.
- (4) See that you are upto date with your lessons, there is no use **pouring** (a) / **poring** (b) over your books in the last minute.
- (A) abaa (B) bbbb(C) baab (D) aabb
10. (1) The management **censored** (a) / **censured** (b) him for his irresponsible behaviour.
- (2) The food in this restaurant caters to the taste of even the most discriminating **palate** (a) / **palette** (b).
- (3) I finally decided to **broach** (a) / **brooch** (b) the subject of my salary hike with my boss.
- (4) The hostess treated us to a lavish seven **course** (a) / **coarse** (b) meal.
- (A) aab (B) baaa (C) bbaa (D) baba
11. (1) Imposing huge taxes on the poor and middle class was deplored as an **immoral** (a) / **amoral** (b) act of the monarchy.
- (2) One must not become **complacent** (a) / **complaisant** (b) about one's achievements.
- (3) On a long distance flight I always prefer the **aisle** (a) / **isle** (b) seat rather than the window seat.
- (4) We were accused by our partners of a **breech** (a) / **breach** (b) in our agreement.
- (A) aabb (B) aaab (C) abab (D) abba
12. (1) When he started looking at the clock I knew that it was a **cue** (a) / **queue** (b) for us to leave.
- (2) I made a rough **draught** (a) / **draft** (b) of my speech and tried to improve on it.
- (3) He took a deep breath, to **curb** (a) / **kerb** (b) his temper.
- (4) The role of the police is to **ensure** (a) / **insure** (b) that people abide by the law.
- (A) baba (B) abba (C) abaa (D) abab
13. (1) During the medieval period many a **duel** (a) / **dual** (b) was fought over a lady.
- (2) Mr Raman, the new CEO of the company **hails**(a) / **hailes**(b) from a remote village in Tamil Nadu.
- (3) During the course of the raid, the police discovered that the traders had been **hoarding** (a) / **hording** (b) food grains.
- (4) The **foreword** (a) / **forward** (b) for my debut novel was written by one of the most eminent writers of our time.
- (A) abab (B) aaaa (C) baaa (D) baba
14. (1) Walking and physical exercise can **militate** (a) / **mitigate** (b) the ill effects of a sedentary life.
- (2) He is aspiring for a **career** (a) / **carrier** (b) in the armed forces.
- (3) Sharath was **loath** (a) / **loathe** (b) to investing his money in the share market.
- (4) People who are lactose intolerant must refrain from consuming **dairy** (a) / **diary** (b) products.
- (A) baaa (B) abab (C) baba (D) bbab
15. (1) The President of America held a meeting with his council of ministers at the **capital** (a) / **capitol** (b) today.
- (2) Dr.Sen was a **notable** (a) / **noticeable** (b) professor in the university.
- (3) Several heritage structures were **razed** (a) / **raised** (b) to the ground during the road widening operations.
- (4) Teachers must **device** (a) / **devise** (b) innovative ways of capturing the interest of the student in a subject.
- (A) aab (B) baab (C) abab (D) bbaa
16. (1) The government feels that conceding to the demands of the naxalites would set a dangerous **precedence** (a) / **precedent** (b).
- (2) India is a **statutory** (a) / **signatory** (b) to the Asia Pacific Peace Treaty.
- (3) The chief minister **formally** (a) / **formerly** (b) declared the sports meet open.
- (4) He attributed his defect to **plain** (a) / **plane** (b) bad luck.
- (A) abaa (B) bbab (C) babb (D) bbaa

17. (1) The naxals tried to **avenge** (a) / **revenge** (b) the killing of their comrades in a police encounter, by indulging in arson.
 (2) It was a **sheer** (a) / **shear** (b) delight to watch the dancers, dressed in colourful costumes, perform gracefully to the lilt of the music.
 (3) My family physician **recommended** (a) / **referred** (b) me to a pulmonologist.
 (4) The meat was tender and succulent because it was **brazed** (a) / **braised** (b) in the stock for more than two hours.
 (A) aaba (B) aabb (C) bbab (D) bbba
18. (1) The **demure** (a) / **demur** (b) bride made a pretty picture in all her bridal finery.
 (2) Don't venture out in the cold weather lest your cold should get **aggravated** (a) / **irritated** (b).
 (3) His foster parents never revealed to him that he was their **adopted** (a) / **adoptive** (b) son.
 (4) I had a **restful** (a) / **restive** (b) sleep last night after several days of insomnia.
 (A) aaba (B) aaaa (C) abaa (D) baba
19. (1) Sir Dixon, a man of **mettle** (a) / **metal** (b), proved to be a formidable opponent to his enemies.
 (2) The failure of monsoon for the third consecutive year does not **augur** (a) / **auger** (b) well for the economy of the country.
 (3) John was forced to take up another **metier** (a) / **meter** (b) in order to supplement his income.
 (4) She is very **adept** (a) / **adopt** (b) at cooking exotic meals.
 (A) aabb (B) abab (C) abba (D) aaaa
20. (1) Despite his best efforts success remained **effusive** (a) / **elusive** (b) for her.
 (2) The police are trying to investigate the reason behind the **grisly** (a) / **grizzly** (b) murder.
 (3) He plans to spend a **quiet** (a) / **quite** (b) retired life in his native village.
 (4) I am a bit of a **sceptic** (a) / **septic** (b) who does not trust an indigenous system of medicine.
 (A) aaaa (B) bbba (C) abbb (D) baaa

Directions for questions 21 to 35: Identify the word which is correctly spelt.

21. (A) persuasive (B) unfaltering
 (C) presumptuous (D) prestigious
22. (A) accomadation (B) sommersault
 (C) acomplishment (D) resilience
23. (A) clamorus (B) parochieal
 (C) precocious (D) mammoth
24. (A) manoevre (B) aggrandize
 (C) precipetate (D) legetimize
25. (A) fracteious (B) froudulent
 (C) acrimonious (D) narcicistic
26. (A) finnesse (B) conciliation
 (C) virtuousity (D) sqvalour
27. (A) unceremonious (B) avarecious
 (C) adventorous (D) posthuomus
28. (A) pussilanimuous (B) timeorous
 (C) dimunitive (D) preposterous
29. (A) mediveal (B) primeval
 (C) coeveal (D) alluvieal
30. (A) stupenduous (B) deciduous
 (C) tremendous (D) horrenduous
31. (A) tempestuous (B) conscientious
 (C) licencious (D) maliecious
32. (A) ambeguity (B) magnificense
 (C) solicituousness (D) ingenuousness
33. (A) deferenchiol (B) influential
 (C) provedential (D) consiquential
34. (A) peaen (B) panigyric
 (C) acclimation (D) extolment
35. (A) euphoneous (B) diaphanuuous
 (C) melliflous (D) cacophonous

Directions for question 36 to 40: Identify the correct spelling of the given word.

36. (A) ephimeral (B) ephemeral
 (C) efimeral (D) effimeral
37. (A) effervescence (B) effervescence
 (C) effervesence (D) efferrvescence
38. (A) zealuosness (B) zealosuness
 (C) zealousness (D) zealousness
39. (A) irresistable (B) irresistable
 (C) irressistible (D) irresistibile
40. (A) phlegmaticism (B) phlegmaticisum
 (C) phlegmaticsam (D) phlegmaticusim

Practice Exercise – 6

Directions for questions 1 to 10: Read the following sentences and from among the options choose the best replacement for the underlined part of the sentence.

1. The Chennai Super Kings and the Delhi Dare Devils are preparing to square up, early next week, for the first match, of the series.
 (A) square with
 (B) square off
 (C) square on
 (D) square out
2. The company has decided to cut across expenditure in view of the ongoing recession.
 (A) cut back
 (B) cut off
 (C) cut out
 (D) cut in
3. The marriage fell over because the couple realized that they were totally incompatible.
 (A) fell out (B) fell off
 (C) fell apart (D) fell behind

4. It is always prudent to lay out some money for a rainy day.
(A) lay aside (B) lay apart
(C) lay down (D) lay in
5. It is advisable to keep away fatty food in order to ward off heart attacks and other lifestyle related diseases.
(A) keep off (B) keep out of
(C) keep down (D) keep back
6. She was visibly hurt by his remarks, I could see her desperately trying to hold down tears.
(A) hold on to (B) hold up
(C) hold over (D) hold back
7. The two friends who met after a long time, were seen catching out on each other's health and families.
(A) catching with (B) catching over
(C) catching up (D) catching in
8. In our country, corruption runs right across all sections of society.
(A) runs through (B) runs over
(C) runs against (D) runs into
9. The government's decision to pull back the heritage structure and build a new commercial complex in its place, drew flak from the public.
(A) pull up (B) pull down
(C) pull through (D) pull aside
10. The government decided to roll down the prices of essential commodities owing to pressure from the opposition parties.
(A) roll in (B) roll over
(C) roll back (D) roll up
11. Tommy will burn himself out if he doesn't slow down.
(A) catch fire (B) outdo
(C) exhaust (D) hurt
12. I now call upon the President to address the assembly.
(A) telephone (B) invite
(C) expect (D) substitute
13. The government has decided to clamp down on smoking in public places.
(A) take strict action in order to prevent
(B) restrict mildly
(C) facilitate
(D) make an announcement regarding
14. Do people usually dress up to go to the opera in your country?
(A) wear very strange clothes
(B) put on a dress
(C) wear elaborate makeup
(D) wear elegant clothes
15. Though she is talkative at home, she clams up as soon as she reaches school.
(A) to behave very rudely
(B) to be very quiet
(C) to be very sociable
(D) become confused
16. Local authorities backed down on their plans to demolish the building.
(A) supported with irrefutable evidence
(B) asked for help
(C) reduced the scale of
(D) retracted

Directions for questions 11 to 20: The underlined part in each sentence is a phrasal verb which is explained correctly in one of the four choices that follow. Pick out the correct choice.

11. Last I saw her, she was putting on the shirt.
(A) hanging to dry
(B) dressing someone else
(C) in the process of wearing
(D) pouring something on
12. The police have now zeroed in on the possibility of the father-in-law being the culprit.
(A) decided
(B) narrowed down to
(C) ruled out
(D) made famous
13. The problem boils down to a lack of money.
(A) can be summarized as
(B) leaves as residue
(C) is caused due to
(D) ultimately leads to
14. Immanuel had to brush up on his Spanish before going to Madrid.
(A) depend upon
(B) make perfect
(C) refresh
(D) use extensively
21. (A) The pickpocket **rifled** (a)/**riffled** (b) through the wallet looking for cash.
(B) The **piquant** (a) / **pique** (b) sauce served along with the starters was delicious.
(C) She is an inveterate traveler who often travels to **exotic** a) / **esoteric** (b) locations all over the world.
(D) She was **ambiguous** (a) / **ambivalent** (b) about her new job in an alien city.
(A) a a a b (B) b a a b (C) a a a a (D) b b a b
22. (A) All the students are expected to abide by the rules and regulations and those who are found guilty of **flouting** (a)/ **flaunting** (b) them are liable to be penalized.
(B) All citizens of the nation should make a collective effort to work for **mutual** (a)/ **common** (b) good.
(C) Life in the society came to a standstill following a series of attacks **perpetrated** (a)/ **perpetuated** (b) by terrorists.
(D) Johnson was felicitated by the management for rendering **meretricious** (a)/ **meritorious** (b) service to the organization.
(A) a b a b (B) a b b a (C) a b b b (D) a a b b

23. (A) **Beside** (a) / **Besides** (b) being an eminent orator, he was a polyglot who could speak 21 languages fluently.
 (B) People belonging to various sections of society strongly opposed the government's move to bring down the heritage structure which was of **historic** (a)/ **historical** (b) significance.
 (C) If you act indifferently and do not express your opinion, you would be **conniving** (a) /**conspiring** (b) in an injustice.
 (D) The opposition party accused the government of **pandering** (a)/ **pampering** (b) to the demands of the minorities.
 (A) b b a a (B) b b b b (C) b a b b (D) b b b a
24. (A) The children were greatly **amused** (a)/ **bemused** (b) by the clown's antics.
 (B) Despite being aware that life is **ephemeral** (a)/ **ethereal** (b) people still cling to their lives.
 (C) As the management failed to **accede** (a)/ **exceed** (b) to their demands, the workers decided to go ahead with the strike.
 (D) The king abdicated his throne and chose to lead an **ascetic** (a)/ **aesthetic** (b) life.
 (A) a a a b (B) a a b b (C) a b b b (D) a a a a
25. (A) The **concurrent** (a)/ **consecutive** (b) strikes by the employees of various sectors had a crippling effect on the economy of the country.
 (B) He advised me to make a few **discrete** (a)/ **discreet** (b) enquires before signing the deal.
 (C) Since he failed to mend his **aberrant** (a)/ **abhorrent** (b) behaviour despite several warnings, he was fired from the organization.
 (D) During our college days, Jack used to regale us with interesting **anecdotes** (a)/ **antidotes** (b).
 (A) a b a b (B) a b a a (C) b a a a (D) b b a a
26. (A) The minister said that the government would take every possible step to **ameliorate** (a)/ **alleviate** (b) the lot of the debt-ridden farmers.
 (B) Father's deteriorating health has been giving us **eager** (a)/ **anxious** (b) moments for the past few months.
 (C) His appointment as the vice-president of the organization now seems a **certitude** (a)/ **certainty** (b).
 (D) **Lightning** (a)/ **Lightening** (b) strikes are reported to have led to the conflagration in the forest area.
 (A) b a a b (B) b b b a (C) a a a a (D) a b b a
27. (A) People generally detest his company because he is known to have a **viscous** (a)/ **vicious** (b) temper.
 (B) Several voluntary organizations came forward to provide **aide** (a)/ **aid** (b) to the hapless refugees.
 (C) It is very important to consume **healthy** (a)/ **healthful** (b) food in order to keep oneself fit.
 (D) The band of musicians received a standing ovation for its **credible** (a)/ **creditable** (b) performance.
 (A) b a a a (B) b b a b (C) a b a b (D) b b b b
28. (A) She endeared herself to everyone with her impeccable manners and **childish** (a)/ **childlike** (b) innocence.
 (B) Elizabeth Green was a renowned social worker and a **voracious** (a)/ **vociferous** (b) champion of human rights.
 (C) The **statutes** (a)/ **statures** (b) of several countries have banned capital punishment.
 (D) The doctors gave us a **faint** (a)/ **feint** (b) hope of his recovery.
 (A) a a a a (B) b b a a (C) b a a a (D) a b a a
29. (A) Stress and sedentary lifestyle can have an **adverse** (a)/ **averse** (b) effect on one's health.
 (B) He is in a **foul** (a)/ **fowl** (b) mood because he had a bad day at work today.
 (C) Acting on a tip-off, the police raided the place and discovered a huge **cache** (a)/ **cash** (b) of arms.
 (D) Bread made of **whole** (a)/ **hole** (b) grain is considered to be beneficial for health when compared to bread made of refined flour.
 (A) a a a a (B) a a b a (C) a b b a (D) a b a a
30. (A) Extreme weather conditions are likely to **wreak** (a)/ **wreck** (b) havoc on the economy of the country.
 (B) The Chief Minister conducted an aerial survey to estimate the damage **afflicted** (a)/ **inflicted** (b) by the floods.
 (C) Don't divulge this news to anyone; this is just **between** (a)/ **among** (b) you and me.
 (D) There were **dissenting** (a)/ **descenting** (b) views from people belonging to different sections of society with regard to the government order.
 (A) a b b b (B) b a b a (C) a a a b (D) a b b a
31. (A) I am planning to visit my friend's place this weekend for **its** (a)/ **it's** (b) been a long time since I last met her.
 (B) The audience were spellbound by the tricks performed by the magician through sheer **sleight** (a) /**slight** (b) of hand.
 (C) The advent of portable laptops has rendered typewriters **archaic** (a)/ **arcane** (b).
 (D) He traces his line of **decent** (a)/ **descent** (b) to the Kachuwaha rulers of Rajasthan.
 (A) b b b b (B) b a a b (C) a b a b (D) b b b a
32. (A) All our efforts to persuade her to change her mind were in **vain** (a)/ **vane** (b) because she was absolutely unrelenting.
 (B) They were **altogether** (a)/ **all together** (b) dissatisfied by the arrangements made by the organizing committee.
 (C) The young lad vowed that he would **avenge** (a)/ **revenge** (b) his father's murder.
 (D) You must **broach** (a)/ **brooch** (b) the issue with utmost caution, as it is highly sensitive.
 (A) a a b b (B) b a a a (C) b b a b (D) a a a a
33. (A) His business expanded tremendously over a span of five years owing to his hardworking nature and shrewd business **acuity** (a)/ **acumen** (b).
 (B) A solution to the problem of environmental degradation still remains **elusive** (a)/ **allusive** (b).

- (C) The International Conference on Foreign Trade was attended by the **who's** (a)/ **whose** (b) who of the business community.
- (D) During the summer months, the people of the drought-hit villages have to walk several kilometers to fetch **portable** (a)/ **potable** (b) water.
- (A) a a a b (B) a b a b (C) b a b b (D) b a a b
34. (A) Over a period of time, she overcame her initial **reluctance** (a)/ **reticence** (b) and started mingling freely with others.
- (B) He is a very conscientious worker and is **through** (a)/ **thorough** (b) in whatever he does.
- (C) Despite his meteoric **assent** (a)/ **ascent** (b) to wealth and fame, he is humble and down to earth.
- (D) After working for six hours without a break, I stepped out to catch a **breath** (a)/ **breathe** (b) of fresh air.
- (A) b b b b (B) b b b a (C) a b b a (D) a a b a
35. (A) My **conscience** (a)/ **conscious** (b) prevented me from telling a lie to my mother.
- (B) The **principal** (a)/ **principle** (b) reason for the delay in executing this project is lack of resources.
- (C) The train had all **ready** (a)/ **already** (b) arrived at the platform, by the time we reached the station.
- (D) We failed to understand the **rational** (a)/ **rational** (b) behind implementing these new rules.
- (A) a b b b (B) a a a b (C) a a b b (D) a b a b

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

Directions for questions 1 and 2: The underlined part in each sentence is an idiom which is explained correctly in one of the four choices that follow. Pick out the correct choice.

1. The pedestrian dodged the vehicle by the skin of his teeth.
- (A) through great effort
- (B) very narrowly
- (C) in the manner of a hero
- (D) awkwardly
2. We expect Lee to get good grades again since he really keeps his nose to the grindstone.
- (A) works very hard
- (B) minds his own business
- (C) flatters those who matter
- (D) studies according to a fixed plan

Directions for questions 3 and 4: Fill in the blanks with appropriate phrasal verbs.

3. Embarrassed by the expose, the Secretary of Defence offered to _____.
- (A) stand in (B) stand down
- (C) stand over (D) stand back

4. If my younger brother refuses to _____ my plans I can probably find someone else more co-operative.
- (A) fall in with (B) fall away
- (C) fall down (D) fall for

Directions for question 5: In the following 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.

5. (A) She **balked** (a)/ **balked** (b) at the idea of spending ten thousand rupees on the outfit.
- (B) He gave me an **incredible** (a)/ **incredulous** (b) look when I, revealed the secret to him.
- (C) One can achieve perfection in whatever one does, through constant **practice** (a)/ **practise** (b).
- (D) In order to provide succor to the distressed farmers, the government decided to **waive** (a)/ **wave** (b) the taxes levied on procuring fertilizers and farm equipment.
- (A) b b a a (B) b b a b (C) a b b a (D) a b b b

Practice Exercise – 7

Directions for questions 1 to 5: There are two blanks in each of the following sentences. From the pairs of words given below each sentence, choose the pair that fills the blanks most appropriately.

1. Apart from _____ a famous victory for the Prime Minister, the mid-term poll stratagem _____ many things for him.
- (A) garnering . . . achieved
- (B) denying . . . accumulated
- (C) bestowing . . . rebuffed
- (D) thumbing down . . . confirmed
2. The connections between physical, emotional, and mental health are widely _____, and scientific research indicates that regular exercise plays a vital role in achieving _____ health in all three areas.
- (A) regulated . . . maximum
- (B) accepted . . . optimal

- (C) acclaimed . . . minimal
- (D) disproved . . . salubrious

3. _____ are among the most valuable molecules in medicine today because of their ability to _____ micro-organisms like bacteria.
- (A) Antibiotics . . . destroy
- (B) Steroids . . . replicate
- (C) Capsules . . . fortify
- (D) Nutrients . . . nourish
4. The recent _____ in the United States' interest rates to their lowest level in four decades was an attempt to _____ deflation from taking hold in the world's biggest economy.
- (A) depletion . . . increase
- (B) amplification . . . deter
- (C) reduction . . . prevent
- (D) plummet . . . abet

5. _____ a food recipe, the art of hospitality cannot be taught through a set of instructions; it has to be imparted and _____ only through example.
 (A) Just like . . . instructed
 (B) Similar to . . . observed
 (C) Like . . . learnt
 (D) Unlike . . . imbibed

Directions for questions 6 to 10: In each question, a word is used in four different ways, A to D. Choose the option in which the usage of the word is incorrect or inappropriate.

6. PITCH

- (A) We had little hope of getting the contract as we were pitched against well-established companies.
 (B) The protestors pitched their tent outside the secretariat.
 (C) You must have an ear for rhythm and pitch to be a successful musician.
 (D) We all pitched a day's salary to help the tsunami victims.

7. RIGHT

- (A) Driving on the right side of the road is the normal practice in America.
 (B) Parents are right to be proud of their children.
 (C) Every woman must stand up for her rights.
 (D) Arathi plays the violin with a band but she is a playback singer in her own rights.

8. RATE

- (A) There is expected to be an unprecedented increase in the rate of petrol in the next few months.
 (B) Despite the low interest rate, fixed deposits of nationalised banks are safe options to invest one's money in.
 (C) At any rate, he will be back at work in a couple of weeks.
 (D) The interviewer asked me how I would rate myself on a scale of ten.

9. STOP

- (A) We were forced to stop the game owing to the incessant rain.
 (B) After a brief stop, we resumed our journey.
 (C) He is very outspoken and nothing can stop him from giving vent to his thoughts.
 (D) The baby will not stop bawling unless he is cuddled by his mother.

10. ILL

- (A) Krithika's overt praise made me feel ill at ease.
 (B) Several people were taken ill after consuming the contaminated food.
 (C) Rahul is not my best friend but I wish him no ill.
 (D) The mother nursed her ill child with great care and affection.

Directions for questions 11 to 15: For the word given in each question, a contextual usage is provided. Pick the word from among the choices, that is the most appropriate substitute for the question word in the given context and mark its corresponding letter as your answer

11. SPURT: The government has directed oil companies to freeze retail prices of petrol and diesel despite a spurt in the price of Brent crude.
 (A) surge (B) cascade
 (C) torrent (D) flurry

12. WHITTLED DOWN : Mr. Arun Shourie has slowly and steadily whittled down the opposition to privatisation.
 (A) consumed (B) carved
 (C) eroded (D) trimmed

13. CONCILIATORY : It was the right conciliatory note to strike in a debate that has had its fair share of heat.
 (A) propitiatory (B) ameliorative
 (C) condoning (D) propitiating

14. TROUNCE : Steve Waugh's words were inspirational enough to help the team trounce the Pakistanis in the final.
 (A) spank (B) chastise
 (C) lambast (D) rout

15. INCONTROVERTIBLE : The weapons inspector's report was not expected to provide incontrovertible evidence of weapons of mass destruction.
 (A) conclusive (B) disputable
 (C) inconvenient (D) indecisive

Directions for questions 16 to 20: Each question has a pair of CAPITALISED words followed by four pairs of words. Choose the pair of words that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed by the capitalized pair.

16. VITUPERATIVE : SCURRILOUS

- (A) Pristine : Immaculate
 (B) Minimum : Negligent
 (C) Reclusive : Melancholic
 (D) Tenacious : Strident

17. INFLUENTIAL : IMPUISSANT

- (A) Taciturn : Stupefied
 (B) Ductile : Intransigent
 (C) Diaphanous : Awkward
 (D) Salacious : Gratuitous

18. BALLISTA : BOULDERS

- (A) Harpoon : Spears
 (B) Boomerang : Missiles
 (C) Bazooka : Arrows
 (D) Trebuchet : Stones

19. BUREAUCRACY : OFFICIALS

- (A) Imperialism : Aristocrats
 (B) Democracy : Constitution
 (C) Hierocracy : Priests
 (D) Dictatorship : Monarch

20. VIGILANTES : MORALS

- (A) Abettors : Coaching
 (B) Emperors : Directions
 (C) Arbiters : Disputes
 (D) Acolytes : Controversy

Directions for questions 21 to 25: Fill in the blanks in the passage below, with the most appropriate word from among the options given for each blank. The right words are the ones used by the author. Be guided by the author's overall style and meaning when you choose your answer.

With their imposing colonial era architecture, lush lawns and prime locations, India's most exclusive clubs have always been (21) of the privileged, of which diplomats are an especially (22) tribe. Established through the 19th

century, these clubs were used by colonists as (23) refuges from the native hordes. Haughty resistance to criticism and (24) against reform means some rules will remain, and leave the clubs (25) in their colonial affectations for quite a while yet. If you want in, get in line, it's a long one and straighten your tie.

21. (A) haunts (B) preserves
(C) resorts (D) havens
22. (A) exasperating (B) galling
(C) hallowed (D) erudite
23. (A) philistine (B) churlish
(C) indecorous (D) urbane
24. (A) tumult (B) inertia
(C) potency (D) pursuit
25. (A) abjuring (B) ensconced
(C) spurning (D) abdicating

Directions for questions 26 to 30: 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 and indicate the letters corresponding with the correct words, in the box provided below each question.

26. (a) It was **balmy** (a) / **barmy** (b) of Steven to believe that celestial movements could explain his rather mundane mishaps.
(ii) Ravi struggled with himself as he pondered how to **broach** (a) / **brooch** (b) the topic of his romance.
(iii) The lobbyists strongly **canvassed** (a) / **canvased** (b) the Republican candidate for his pro-corporate policies.
(iv) The **bough** (a) / **bow** (b) of the Titanic was headed for a frontal collision with the iceberg.

27. (i) Unable to bear the **censure** (a) / **ensor** (b) of his movie by the critics the director became reclusive.
(ii) The **complacent** (a) / **complaisant** (b) nature of Shyam appealed to his friend who was pleased with his kowtowing.
(iii) Madhuri's wedding gown **titivated** (a) / **titillated** (b) her beauty further.
(iv) The epicure's **palate** (a) / **pallette** (b) was piqued by the variety of the arena on display.

28. (i) The residents of the violence ravaged city were **immured** (a) / **incurred** (b) to their houses by the curfew.
(ii) The **dual** (a) / **duel** (b) nature of man in conflicting impulses is explained in Jewish philosophy by the yetzer tov (good impulse) and yetzer ra (bad impulse).
(iii) The politician laid the **wreath** (a) / **wreathe** (b) on the tomb of the long deceased national leader.
(iv) The directors came up with their own explanation for what the rating agencies **implied** (a) / **inferred** (b) in their report about the future of the company.

29. (i) The eco-conscious politician strongly **eschewed** (a) / **espoused** (b) the use of plastic bags.
(ii) Rose had gone into the other room to **minister** (a) / **administer** (b) to the needs of the guests.
(iii) The accused was **inculped** (a) / **exculpated** (b) of all charges for lack of incontrovertible evidence.
(iv) The tenacious **pursuit** (a) / **perusal** (b) of the documents finally yielded some concrete results.

30. (i) The petty criminal **beseached** (a) / **bespoke** (b) the judge for mercy.
(ii) Culture doesn't exist in a vacuum. We often **conflate** (a) / **conflagrate** (b) elements from various civilizations.
(iii) A person/s **indigence** (a) / **indolence** (b) is not always a matter of choice. Who you are born to has something to do with how well you do in life financially.
(iv) The actor's **inept** (a) / **adept** (b) portrayal of Julius Caesar drew severe flak from the theatre enthusiasts.

Directions for questions 31 to 35: In each of the questions below, a word with its usage is given. Select as your answer, the word that is inappropriate as a replacement to the question word in the sentence.

31. COLLATE: Many disclaimers in web pages avow that they have collected and collated the information in good faith but proclaim that they are not responsible for its accuracy.
(A) encumbered (B) composed
(C) examined (D) mustered
32. FRAGMENTED: We live in a world in which time and space are fragmented and our attention is divided, continually switching back and forth between different streams of sensory inputs.
(A) shattered (B) splintered
(C) immoderate (D) broken
33. BEREFT: Several areas where tiger poaching is non-existent are surprisingly bereft of the amber-eyed cat because its preferred prey have become rare or have even vanished.
(A) devoid (B) emitted
(C) robbed (D) divested
34. BESET: The primordial ignorance which besets all human beings due to the Lord's power of 'Maya', can be overcome only by divine grace and not by human ingenuity.
(A) encloses (B) exerts
(C) besieges (D) perplexes
35. STULTIFYING: Inadequate English equivalents of Urdu words, idioms and other expressions have had a stultifying effect on the English language abilities of some of the Urdu speaking people in the sub-continent.
(A) benumbing (B) stirring
(C) constraining (D) hampering

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

Directions for questions 1 and 2: There are two blanks in each of the following sentences. From the pairs of words given below each sentence, choose the pair that fills the blanks most appropriately.

1. In 1915, Einstein succeeded in _____ the theory of relativity to matter in acceleration, resulting in a new theory of gravitation, where mass was _____ as the curvature of space-time.
(A) relating ...considered
(B) reaching ...named
(C) formulating ...classified
(D) extending ...identified
2. The dismal health and nutrition situation, implying a poor state of food and nutrition _____ in both rural and urban India, needs to be _____ on a war footing.
(A) security...addressed
(B) value ...directed
(C) shares ...attended
(D) standard ...focussed

Directions for questions 3 and 4: Each question has a pair of CAPITALISED words followed by four pairs of words. Choose the pair of words that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed by the capitalized pair.

3. ECLAT : PANACHE
(A) Rectitude : Probity
(B) Timorousness : Defiance
(C) Opprobrium: Perfidy
(D) Recalcitrance : Docility

4. HUMANE : FIENDISH
(A) Gregarious : Sociable
(B) Defamatory : Complimentary
(C) Risible : Ludicrous
(D) Catastrophic : Calamitous

Directions for question 5: In the following question, there are five 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 and indicate the letters corresponding with the correct words in the box provided below the question.

5. (i) While she had realised that her father would be unhappy about her decision to discontinue studies, she did not expect him to *fulminate* (a) / *culminate* (b) as he did.
(ii) It hurts to see him *flounder* (a) / *founder* (b) in the simplest of situations, especially when we recall how self-assured he was before his illness.
(iii) In his answers to the prosecutor's questions about the accident, the eye-witness displayed absolute *integrity* (a) / *honesty* (b).
(iv) Locating his *house* (a) / *home* (b) took me the better part of the day.
(v) He's such an *egotist* (a) / *egoist* (b), he actually thinks we'd be sad to see him go!

Key

Practice Exercise – 1

1. A	7. C	13. C	19. A	29. D	35. C	41. D
2. B	8. D	14. A	20. D	30. D	36. C	42. A
3. C	9. D	15. B	25. D	31. D	37. A	43. B
4. C	10. D	16. B	26. C	32. D	38. D	44. D
5. D	11. A	17. D	27. B	33. B	39. B	45. C
6. A	12. C	18. C	28. C	34. B	40. C	

Practice Exercise – 2

1. B	7. B	18. C	24. C	30. B	36. C	42. C
2. D	8. B	19. D	25. B	31. B	37. C	43. B
3. C	9. B	20. A	26. D	32. D	38. A	44. D
4. C	10. C	21. A	27. B	33. A	39. B	45. C
5. A	16. B	22. B	28. C	34. D	40. D	
6. B	17. D	23. D	29. A	35. D	41. A	

Practice Exercise – 3

1. B	8. D	15. A	22. A	29. Yes	36. A	43. D
2. A	9. C	16. C	23. B	30. Yes	37. C	44. C
3. D	10. D	17. A	24. D	31. D	38. D	45. A
4. A	11. A	18. A	25. C	32. C	39. B	
5. B	12. B	19. C	26. Yes	33. A	40. A	
6. B	13. D	20. A	27. Yes	34. A	41. A	
7. C	14. B	21. C	28. No	35. D	42. D	

Practice Exercise – 4

*Refer to explanatory notes

Practice Exercise – 5

1. B	6. B	11. B	16. D	21. C	26. B	31. A	36. B
2. A	7. A	12. C	17. B	22. D	27. A	32. D	37. A
3. D	8. A	13. B	18. B	23. D	28. D	33. B	38. C
4. C	9. C	14. A	19. D	24. B	29. B	34. D	39. D
5. A	10. B	15. B	20. D	25. C	30. B	35. D	40. A

Practice Exercise – 6

1. B	6. D	11. C	16. B	21. A	26. D	31. B
2. A	7. C	12. B	17. A	22. A	27. D	32. D
3. C	8. A	13. A	18. D	23. A	28. B	33. D
4. A	9. B	14. C	19. B	24. D	29. A	34. B
5. A	10. C	15. C	20. D	25. B	30. B	35. C

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. B	2. A	3. B	4. A	5. A
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Practice Exercise – 7

1. A	7. D	13. A	19. C	25. B	31. A
2. B	8. A	14. D	20. C	26. baab	32. C
3. A	9. B	15. A	21. C	27. abaa	33. B
4. C	10. D	16. A	22. C	28. aaaa	34. B
5. D	11. A	17. B	23. D	29. aabb	35. B
6. D	12. C	18. D	24. B	30. aaaa	

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. D	2. A	3. A	4. B	5. aabaa
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