

SuperGrads Study Material

Part of the most Comprehensive Classroom Training, Prep Content & Test Series across the Nation.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE



VOCABULARY BUILDING TECHNIQUES

1. Word Roots:

Cred: Credible.

Eg: *The testimony of the witness sounded credible.*

Credibility:

Eg: *After the fraud, Satyam has lost all credibility.*

Incredible: Incredible India.

Credo:

Credulous: Gullible, Trusting.

Incredulous: Sceptical, Cynical.

Eg: *I am a little incredulous of miracles.*

Credentials: Testimonials, Certificates.

Credit: Trustworthiness.

Eg: *He is a businessman of credit.*

Circum:

Circumnavigate: To sail or fly around, Make circuit by navigation, to manoeuvre around.

Circumspect: Watchful, Well considered & Discreet.

Circumlocution: Around-about or indirect way of speaking, Use of more words than necessary to express an idea.

Eg: *To be a successful politician, you must master the art of circumlocution.*

Circumscribe: Encircle, Limit, Restrict.

Circumvent: Avoid, Dodge, Skirt.

Eg: *She planned a way to circumvent all the bureaucratic red tape. Circumvent the real issue.*

2. Theme:

Food:

Victuals, Vittles, Grub: Food supplies, Provisions, Rations.

Eg: *Enough vittles were brought along to feed all the soldiers.*

The amount we spend on pub grub and takeaways has fallen for the first time in 40 years.

Entrée, fare: Dish served as the main course of a meal.

Comestible: Palatable, Edible, Sumptuous, Scrumptious, Delectable, Savory, Appetizing, Tangy, Spicy, Delicacy, Delectable.

Eg: *The table was spread with all kinds of comestibles.*

A feast of home-cooked delectable.

Epicure, Gourmet, Gourmand, Gastronomer, Glutton.

A connoisseur of fine food and drink.

A person who is fond of good eating, often indiscriminately and to excess.

Cornucopia: Abundance of food.

3. **Synonyms:**
Decry, Revile, Assail, Flay, Fulminate, Censure, Denounce, Censure: Criticize, Condemn, Attack.
Eg: *The social-worker has denounced the government's policy.*
Critics reviled the movie.
- Rant, Berate Upbraid, Castigate, Admonish, Reproach, Reprimand, Chastise, Reprove, Rebuke, Chide, Excoriate:** Scold angrily, Shout at.
Eg: *The principal upbraided the student for his indiscipline.*
The president reproached the general for his irresponsible behaviour.
- Malign, Slander, Vilify, Disparage, Belittle, Denigrate, Libel, Slur, Cast aspersion:** Defame, Damage reputation.
Eg: *The journalists are trying to slander his good name.*
Casting aspersions on the rival candidate.
4. **Mnemonics:**
Plethora: Le thora.
Malign: Mali with gun.
Truculent: Truck wale.
Scrooge-mean: Uncle Scrooge.
Affront: Front.
- Benign: Bina gun.*
Conflagration: Fire in flag.
Bedizen: Kiran Bedi decorating her Zen car.
Acclimatize: Climate.

VOCABULARY LIST

A

ABDICATE:

Meaning: To give up a position, right, or power.
Syn: Forgo, Relinquish, Renounce, Vacate, Abandon, Abjure.
Ant: Keep, Defend, Stay, Pursue.
Eg: *A true fighter will never abdicate his post when faced with challenges.*

ABHOR:

Meaning: To loathe, detest.
Syn: Despise, Detest, Hate, Loathe, Scorn, Abominate.
Ant: Admire, Cherish, Like, Love, Adore.
Eg: *I abhor crime in every form.*

ADAMANT:

Meaning: Uncompromising, Unyielding.
Syn: Insistent, Intransigent, Rigid, Stubborn, Uncompromising, Stiff.
Ant: Flexible, Irresolute, Lenient, Weak.
Eg: *The company's adamant nature doesn't allow it to optimise the opportunities that globalisation in India offers.*

AESTHETIC:

Meaning: Pertaining to beauty or art.
Syn: Artistic, Creative, Artful, Gorgeous, Inventive.
Ant: Displeasing, Ugly, Unattractive.
Eg: *Successful interior decorators bank primarily on their aesthetic sense.*

AGNOSTIC:

Meaning: One who doubts that God exists.
Syn: Sceptic, Doubter, Freethinker, Materialist, Unbeliever.
Ant: Believer.
Eg: *Verbose people enter in debates concerning agnostic issues when they fall short of better topics to talk on.*

ALLEGATION:

Meaning: An assertion that is wrong; accusation.
Syn: Accusation, Claim, Plea, Affirmation, Declaration.
Ant: Exculpation, Denial.
Eg: *He rejected the allegation that he had lied.*

AMENABLE:

Meaning: Agreeable, Cooperative.
Syn: Agreeable, Responsive, Susceptible, Acquiescent, Biddable.
Ant: Unsusceptible, Intractable, Irresponsible, Non-conforming.
Eg: *The newly appointed secretary is an amenable person, willing to work in a team.*

AMIABLE:

Meaning: Friendly, Pleasant, Likable.
Syn: Affable, Amicable, Charming, Cheerful, Cordial, Delightful.
Ant: Aloof, Cold, Disagreeable, Hostile, Mean.
Eg: *Finally, I have moved to a locality with amiable neighbours.*

ANATHEMA:

Meaning: Ban, Curse, Something shunned or disliked.
Syn: Malediction, Bane, Pariah, Aversion, bother, Curse.
Ant: Love, Benediction, Benison, Blessing, Commendation, Beloved.
Eg: *Female education was anathema in Afghanistan during the Taliban regime.*

APATHY:

Meaning: Lack of feeling or emotion.
Syn: Indifference, Insensitivity, Lethargy, Aloofness, Disinterest, Dispassion.
Ant: Interest, Care, Concern, Feeling, Passion.
Eg: *Self-centred people display apathy even in the most emotional situations.*

ASSASSINATE:

Meaning: Murder (an important person).
Syn: Kill, Execute, Slaughter, Slay, Hit, Liquidate, Eliminate.
Ant: Create, Bear, Give Birth, Keep.
Eg: *John F. Kennedy was assassinated there in 1963.*

ATROCIOUS:

Meaning: Monstrous, Shockingly bad, Wicked.
Syn: Awful, Barbaric, Heinous, Rotten, Scandalous, Shocking, Fiendish.
Ant: Good, Magnificent, Wonderful, Inoffensive.
Eg: *The atrocious activities of the Taliban had shocked the whole world.*

AUGUST:

Meaning: Dignified, Awe inspiring, Venerable.
Syn: Grand, Baronial, Brilliant, Eminent, Exalted, Glorious.
Ant: Undignified, Gross, Common, Menial.
Eg: *Upon coming visa-vis the august personality of Atalji in person, I finally realised why he is so well known.*

AVARICE:

Meaning: Greed.
Syn: Avidity, Covetousness, Cupidity, Frugality, Greediness, Miserliness.
Ant: Generosity, Philanthropy.
Eg: *Parents should not encourage avarice in their children in any sphere of life.*

B

BALEFUL:

Meaning: Harmful, With evil intentions.
Syn: Calamitous, Deadly, Dire, Evil, Foreboding, Harmful.
Ant: Advantageous, Auspicious, Favourable, Good, Helping.
Eg: *The ideology with which the al Qaeda justifies its acts of terror owes as much to baleful trends in Western thought as it does to a perversion of pure Islamic beliefs.*

BANAL:

Meaning: Trite, Overly common.
Syn: Bland, Corny, Hackneyed, Mundane, Clichéd.
Ant: Intelligent, New, original, Sharp, Uncommon.
Eg: *Marilyn Monroe had the kind of voice that made the most banal sentence sound thrillingly intimate.*

BASTION:

Meaning: Fortification, Stronghold.
Syn: Bulwark, Citadel, Fortress, Mainstay, Defence, Protection.
Ant: Weak spot, Weakness.
Eg: *The Chief Minister could not defend his bastion from the onslaught of the charismatic newcomer.*

BELLICOSE:

Meaning: Warlike, Aggressive.
Syn: Antagonistic, Combative, Threatening, Aggressive, Argumentative, Hostile.
Ant: Agreeable, Calm, Easy-going, pacific, Peaceful.
Eg: *The bellicose foreign policy of USA under Bush has irked both friends and foes alike.*

BENEFACTOR:

Meaning: Someone giving aid or money.
Syn: Contributor, Patron, Promoter, Supporter, Aid, Altruist.
Ant: Opponent, Antagonist, Opposer.
Eg: *Who among us does not wonder and ultimately thrill at Scrooge's great transformation from merciless egoist and tight fisted misanthrope to generous and joy filled benefactor?*

BOVINE:

Meaning: Cowlike, Relating to cows.
Syn: Cow, Oxen, Beef-brained, Hoggish, Bovid.
Ant: Nice, Sophisticated, Careful, Delicate, Polite, Refined.
Eg: *After watching the act of the ventriloquist, Rahul's jaw dropped in an expression of bovine amazement.*

BRAZEN:

Meaning: Bold, Shameless, Impudent, of or like brass.
Syn: Audacious, Blatant, Bold, Impudent, Shameless, Unabashed.
Ant: Humble, Meek, Modest, Quiet, Retiring, Shy.
Eg: *He went about his illegal business with a brazen self-assurance.*

BURGEON:

Meaning: To sprout or flourish.
Syn: Prosper, Snowball, Spout, Blossom, Bud, Flower.
Ant: Decline, Decrease, Diminish, Fade, Lessen.
Eg: *It has been very rightly said that when neglected, minor problems burgeon into crises.*

C

CANNY:
Meaning: Smart, Founded on common sense.
Syn: Adroit, Astute, Cagey, Frugal, Ingenious, Intelligent.
Ant: Careless, Foolish, Hasty, Idiotic, Ignorant, Imbecile.
Eg: *Canny investors will switch banks if they find out they are getting a raw deal.*

CASTIGATE:
Meaning: To punish, chastise, Criticize severely.
Syn: Berate, Censure, Chastise, Criticize, Excoriate, Penalize.
Ant: Approve, Compliment, Exonerate, Flatter, Praise.
Eg: *His parents castigated him for not setting a good example for his younger brother.*

CATHOLIC:
Meaning: Universal, Broad and comprehensive.
Syn: Comprehensive, Eclectic, Generic, Liberal, Whole, Cosmopolitan.
Ant: Exclusive, Incomprehensive, Narrow, Partial, Specific.
Eg: *His catholic taste in music is amazing.*

CHAUVINIST:
Meaning: Supremacist.
Syn: Bigot, Patriot, Jingoist, Sexist.
Ant: Neutrality, Internationalism.
Eg: *His male chauvinism led him to believe that women were less intelligent than men.*

CIRCUITOUS:
Meaning: Roundabout.
Syn: Labyrinthine, Meandering, Rambling, Tortuous, Circular, Collateral.
Ant: Direct, Straight, In line.
Eg: *Because of the traffic jam, I had to take a circuitous route to office.*

CLANDESTINE:
Meaning: Secretive, Concealed for a darker purpose.
Syn: Covert, Sly, Furtive, Hidden, Surreptitious, Concealed, Sneaky.
Ant: Honest, Known, Legal, Open, Public.
Eg: *In their clandestine meetings, the conspirators determined how and when they would assassinate the emperor.*

CRYPTIC:
Meaning: Puzzling, Perplexing.
Syn: Ambiguous, Arcane, Equivocal, Mysterious, Strange, Vague, Veiled.
Ant: Certain, Clear, Common, Definite, Known, Normal.
Eg: *He found his boss's utterances too cryptic.*

D

DEPRECATE:
Meaning: To belittle, Disparage.
Syn: Depreciate, Derogate, Detract, Discountenance, Disfavour, Expostulate.
Ant: Approve, Commend, Compliment, Increase, Laud, Praise.
Eg: *A good leader never deprecates the foibles of his subordinates.*

DEXTEROUS:
Meaning: Skilled physically or mentally.
Syn: Able, Active, Adept, Adroit, Agile, Apt, Clever, Deft, Skilled.
Ant: Awkward, Clumsy, Inept, Inexpert, Unable, Unskilled.
Eg: *Michelangelo was very dexterous both with his hands as well as mind.*

DIATRIBE:

Meaning: Bitter verbal attack.
Syn: Denunciation, Invective, Jeremiad, Screech, Tirade, Stricture, Vituperation.
Ant: Compliment, Praise, Recommendation.
Eg: *In his speech he launched a long diatribe against the government's policies.*

DICHOTOMY:

Meaning: Division into two parts.
Syn: Difference of opinion, Disagreement, Disunion, Separation, Split.
Ant: Agreement, Likeness, Sameness, Similarity.
Eg: *There is a big dichotomy between what most people in power say and what they do.*

DILEMMA:

Meaning: A difficult and perplexing situation.
Syn: Difficulty, Impasse, Plight, Puzzle, Quandary, Bind, Perplexity.
Ant: Good fortune, Solution, Advantage, Benefit, Boon, Success.
Eg: *Career counseling solved her dilemma.*

DOGMATIC:

Meaning: Rigidly fixed in opinion, Opinionated.
Syn: Arbitrary, Arrogant, Assertive, Obstinate, Stubborn, Unequivocal, Doctrinaire.
Ant: Ambiguous, Impartial, Willing, Yielding, Amenable.
Eg: *The onslaught of technology calls for a rethink on dogmatic ways of doing business.*

E

EDICT:

Meaning: Law, Command, Official public order.
Syn: Decree, Directive, Injunction, Mandate, Precept, Regulation, Ruling, Statute.
Ant: Request, Suggestion, Opinion, Offer.
Eg: *Oil exploration is prohibited by government edict.*

EGOCENTRIC:

Meaning: Acting as if things are centred around oneself.
Syn: Self-absorbed, Self-centred, Self-serving, Selfish, Pompous.
Ant: Unselfish, Reserved, Timid, Humble, Modest.
Eg: *In Joseph Heller's famous book 'Catch 22', the egocentric character of Milo is a symbol of the corporate greed that has taken over America.*

EGRESS:

Meaning: Exit.
Syn: Escape, Doorway, Emanation, Emergence, Exiting, Exodus.
Ant: Arrival, Coming, Stay, Closure, Entrance.
Eg: *The swarming crowd blocked the egress from the building.*

EMULATE :

Meaning: To copy, Imitate.
Syn: Follow Suit, Imitate, Mimic, Mirror, Challenge, Contend.
Ant: Neglect.
Eg: *People often unsuccessfully try to emulate their favorite movie stars.*

EMANCIPATE :

Meaning: Liberate, Set free.
Syn: Liberate, Loosen, Deliver, Discharge, Release, Unchain.
Ant: Detain, Imprison, Hold, Keep, Incarcerate.
Eg: *Women should be emancipated from male supremacy.*

ENIGMATIC :

Meaning: Puzzling, Inexplicable.
Syn: Ambiguous, Cryptic, Obscure, Dark, Doubtful, Enigmatical.
Ant: Clear, Obvious, Explicit, Known, Plain.
Eg: *The enigmatic smile of Mona Lisa has charmed humanity for several centuries now.*

ENTHUSIASM:

Meaning: Passion, Ardour, Fervour, Zeal, Fanatic.
Syn: Eagerness, Emotion, Energy, Feeling, Fervour, Interest.
Ant: Calm, Coolness, Inactivity, Indifference, Laziness.
Eg: *Their knowledge of both the menu and the wine list can be patchy, too, but there is certainly no doubting their enthusiasm for the food.*

EPICURE :

Meaning: Person with refined taste in food and wine.
Syn: Connoisseur, Gourmand, Epicurean, Gastronomer, Gastronomist, Bob vivant.
Ant: Ignoramus.
Eg: *As an epicure, he abhors the fast food chains that have sprung up everywhere.*

EPITOME :

Meaning: Representative of an entire group, Summary.
Syn: Apotheosis, Embodiment, Essence, Exemplar, Personification, Typification.
Ant: Addition, Expansion, Increase, Extension, Enlargement.
Eg: *Mother Teresa is regarded as the epitome of kindness.*

ERUDITE :

Meaning: Learned, Scholarly.
Syn: Knowledgeable, Literate, Scholarly, Brainy, Cultivated, Educated.
Ant: Uneducated, Common, Ignorant, Uncultured.
Eg: *A successful manager may not be an erudite speaker.*

EULOGY :

Meaning: High praise, Often in a public speech.
Syn: Citation, Paeon, Tribute, Acclaim, Applause.
Ant: Blame, Censure, Criticism, Disapproval, Calumny.
Eg: *Critics everywhere have eulogized JK Rowling's last book.*

F

FECUND :

Meaning: Fertile, Fruitful.
Syn: Breeding, Fertile, Fructiferous, Fruitful, Generating, Propagating.
Ant: Impotent, Sterile, Unproductive, Infertile, Unfruitful.
Eg: *Children possess a fecund imagination, and need the right support to bring it to fruition.*

FELICITOUS :

Meaning: Suitable, Appropriate, Well spoken.
Syn: Opportune, Propitious, Telling, Applicable, Convincing, Proper.
Ant: Inauspicious, Inappropriate, Infelicitous, Unsuitable, Improper.
Eg: *Her nickname 'chatterbox' is particularly felicitous.*

FIASCO :
Meaning: Disaster, Utter failure.
Syn: Blunder, Breakdown, Debacle, Disaster, Failure, Embarrassment.
Ant: Accomplishment, Triumph, Achievement, Miracle, Success.
Eg: *The play was a fiasco even the lead actor forgot his lines.*

FRANTIC :
Meaning: A frantic dash, search, struggle.
Syn: Agitated, Angry, Distraught, Furious, Hectic, Weird.
Ant: Balanced, Calm, Collected, Happy, Pleased.
Eg: *They made frantic attempts to revive him.*

FRAGILE:
Meaning: Fragile china, glass, bones.
Syn: Delicate, Feeble, Frail, Weak, Crumbly, Shatterable.
Ant: ble, Strong, Unbreakable, Durable, Tough.
Eg: *The economy remains extremely fragile.*

G

GARRULOUS: (adj.)
Meaning: Very talkative.
Syn: Chatty, Glib, Voluble, Babbling, Blabbermouth, Chattering.
Ant: Quiet, Mum, Silent, Still, Reserved.
Usage: *In Indian movies, comedians are generally found playing a garrulous character.*

GENRE: (n.)
Meaning: Type, Class, Category.
Syn: Brand, Category, Character, Fashion, Kind.
Ant: Whole, Individual, One.
Usage: *Mozart's opera 'The marriage of Figaro' falls into the genre of comic opera.*

GLUTTONY: (n.)
Meaning: Eating and drinking to excess.
Syn: Carving, Demand, Fondness, Greed, Hunger.
Ant: Apathy, Indifference, Dislike, Hate, Hated.
Usage: *'Gluttony is one of the seven deadly sins' is definitely not what visitors to a restaurant would like to read.*

GREGARIOUS: (adj.)
Meaning: Outgoing, Sociable.
Syn: Affable, Sociable, Clubby, Convivial, Cordial, Fun.
Ant: Unfriendly, Cold, Cool, Introverted, Unsociable.
Usage: *In today's competitive world, the C.E.O.'s have to be gregarious and media savvy.*

GUILE: (n.)
Meaning: The use of clever but dishonest behaviour in order to trick people.
Syn: Trickery, Artfulness, Artifice, Craft, Cunning, Ruse.
Ant: Frankness, Honor, Truth, Frankness, Honesty.
Usage: *George was a man completely lacking in guile.*

H

HACKNEYED: (*adj.*)

Meaning:

Worn out by overuse.

Syn:

Banal, Corny, Stale, Timeworn, Trite, Well worn.

Ant:

Fresh, New, Original, Uncommon.

Usage:

In a media sprayed with intelligent and creative communication, the hackneyed propaganda did not help the party win the election.

HEDONISM: (*n.*)

Meaning:

Pursuit of pleasure as a goal.

Syn:

Enjoyment, Debauchery, Gratification, Pleasure, Epicureanism, Indulgence.

Ant:

Dissatisfaction, Unhappiness, Sorrow.

Usage:

Teachings of Jainism are totally against hedonism.

HOLOCAUST: (*n.*)

Meaning:

Widespread destruction, usually by fire.

Syn:

Carnage, Catastrophe, Genocide, Slaughter, Massacre, Devastation.

Ant:

Peace, Blessing, Boon, Good fortune, Gain.

Usage:

A nuclear holocaust would leave few survivors.

HYPOCRISY: (*n.*)

Meaning:

Behaviour in which somebody pretends to have moral standards or opinions that they do not actually have.

Syn:

Deceit, Bigotry, Deception, Dishonesty, Duplicity, Fraud.

Ant:

Fairness, Truth, Sincerity, Openness, Honesty.

Usage:

He condemned the hypocrisy of those politicians who do one thing and say another.

HAZARD: (*n.*)

Meaning:

A thing that can be dangerous or cause damage.

Syn:

Peril, Risk, Threat, Dynamite, Jeopardy, Endangerment.

Ant:

Safety, Fact, Proof, Protection, Certainty, Reality.

Usage:

Everybody is aware of the hazards of smoking.

I

ICONOCLAST: (*n.*)

Meaning:

A person who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions.

Syn:

Critic, Cynic, Heretic, Rebel, Nonbeliever, Radical, Skeptic.

Ant:

Believer.

Usage:

Ayn Rand created Howard Roark as an iconoclast, staging his revolt against a world, which had become slaves to its own mediocrity.

INSIPID: (*adj.*)

Meaning:

Lacking taste, lacking in interest and energy.

Syn:

Banal, Bland, Ho-hum, Trite, Vapid, Innocuous.

Ant:

Original, Sharp, Delicious, Pleasing, Yummy.

Usage:

The overcooked vegetables tasted insipid.

INSOMNIA: (*n.*)

Meaning:

Lack of sleep, inability to sleep.

Syn:

Restlessness, Stress, Tension, Vigil, Sleeplessness.

Ant:

Relaxation, Sleep.

Usage:

Praveen was suffering from anxiety and insomnia.

INHABITANTS: (n.)

Meaning: Native and indigenous people (*the people who live there*).
Syn: Citizen, Colonist, Dweller, Inmate, Occupant, Settler.
Ant: Alien, Immigrant, Foreigner, Landlord.
Usage: *The inhabitants of the village protested against the new road.*

INEPT: (adj.)

Meaning: Having or showing no skill; Clumsy.
Syn: Awkward, Bumbling, Incompetent, Inefficient, Undexterous.
Ant: Able, Capable, Competent, Dexterous.
Usage: *Although a brilliant student, he was always rather inept at sports.*

INGENUOUS: (adj.)

Meaning: (of a person or action) Innocent and unsuspecting.
Syn: Artless, Candid, Childlike, Frank, Green, Guileless.
Ant: Dishonest, Sly, Deceitful.
Usage: *It was rather ingenuous of him to assume that the product would maintain its monopoly in the market for long.*

INIMICAL: (adj.)

Meaning: Tending to obstruct or harm.
Syn: Adverse, Destructive, Harmful, Hostile, Injurious, Opposed.
Ant: Friendly, Good, Helpful, Nice, Kind, Favorable.
Usage: *Pedantic teaching style is sometimes inimical to creative expression.*

INNOCUOUS: (adj.)

Meaning: Not harmful or offensive.
Syn: Banal, Bland, Inoffensive, Painless, Flat, Innocent.
Ant: Delicious, Tasty, Yummy, Bad, Damaging.
Usage: *The innocuous looking briefcase turned out to be a bomb.*

INSCRUTABLE: (adj.)

Meaning: Impossible to understand or interpret.
Syn: Enigmatic, Impenetrable, Incomprehensible, Unfathomable, Unintelligible.
Ant: Clear, Fathomable, Evident, Plain, Intelligible.
Usage: *The inscrutable expression on the interviewer's face made the student apprehensive about his chances of success.*

INTREPID: (adj.)

Meaning: Fearless adventurous (*often used for rhetorical or humorous effect*).
Syn: Courageous, Fearless, Heroic, Plucky, Spunky.
Ant: Afraid, Fearful, Meek, Timid, Cowardly.
Usage: *In 1773, the intrepid James Cook in his ship 'Resolution', became the first explorer to cross the Antarctic Circle.*

J

JARGON: (n.)

Meaning: Special words or expressions used by a particular profession or group that are difficult for others to understand.
Syn: Argot, Idiom, Lingo, Parlance, Patois, Slang.
Ant: Standard, Sense, Quiet, Silence.
Usage: *The new operating instructions manual was written in electrician's jargon rather than plain English.*

JINGOISM: (n.)

Meaning: Extreme patriotism, especially in the form of aggressive or warlike foreign policy.
Syn: Fanaticism, Nationalism, Jingoism, Narrowness, Bellicism, Ethnocentricity
Ant: Unbiased.
Usage: *There is a thin line separating patriotism from jingoism.*

JUDICIOUS: (adj.)

Meaning: Having, showing, or done with good judgment or sense.
Syn: Careful, Cautious, Circumspect, Sober, Thorough, Skillful.
Ant: Carelessness, Ignorant, Rash, Stupid, Unwise.
Usage: *The prime function of a manager is to make judicious use of available resources.*

JUXTAPOSITION: (n.)

Meaning: Place or deal with close together for contrasting effect.
Syn: Contact, Nearness, Touching, Contact, Proximity, Abutment.
Ant: Distance, Remoteness.
Usage: *In the art exhibition, Vincent van Gogh earlier drawings were juxtaposed with his later works.*

JADED: (adj.)

Meaning: Tired and bored, usually because you have had too much of something.
Syn: Bored, Tired, Weary, Cool, Dulled, Fagged, Fatigued.
Ant: Activated, Fresh, Unused.
Usage: *I felt terribly jaded after working all weekend.*

K

KINETIC: (adj.)

Meaning: Of, Relating to, Or resulting from motion.
Syn: Animated, Lively, Peppy, Active, Driving.
Ant: Apathetic, Inactive, Lethargic, Dormant.
Usage: *Kinetic energy is produced by the objects in motion.*

KUDOS: (n.)

Meaning: Acclaim or praise for exceptional achievement.
Syn: Applause, Credit, Fame, Flattery, Glory, Honor.
Ant: Condemnation, Denunciation, Dishonor, Disregard, Lowliness.
Usage: *Shilpa Shetty has won 1,00,000 Pounds prize money and a huge amount of kudos in Big Brother reality show.*

KEEN: (adj.)

Meaning: Wanting to do something or wanting something to happen very much.
Syn: Anxious, Ardent, Avid, Eager, Fervent, Fierce, Impatient.
Ant: Apathetic, Calm, Cool, Indifferent, Dispassionate.
Usage: *John was very keen to help.*

KNOTTY: (adj.)

Meaning: Complicated and difficult to solve.
Syn: Mystifying, Perplexing, Puzzling, Sticky, Thorny, Tricky.
Ant: Easy, Facile, Smooth, Simple, Uncomplicated.
Usage: *The knotty roots of the old oak tree.*

KNAVE: (n.)

Meaning: A dishonest man or boy.
Syn: Bastard, Blackguard, Fraud, Miscreant, Rapscaillon, Scamp.
Ant: Genuine, Real, True, Legitimate.
Usage: *The knave of clubs.*

L

LACHRYMOSE: (*adj.*)

Meaning: Formal or poetic/literary tearful or given to weeping.
Syn: Sad, Teary, Weepy, Tearful, Dismal, Sorrowful.
Ant: Cheerful, Glad, Good, Happy, Joyful, Pleasant.
Usage: *Meena Kumari made a name for herself by playing the role of lachrymose heroine in many Hindi films.*

LIMPID: (*adj.*)

Meaning: (*Of a liquid*) Free of anything that darkens; completely clear.
Syn: Bright, Crystal-clear, Crystalline, Lucid, Pellucid, Comprehensible.
Ant: Incomprehensible, Muddy, Obscure, Unintelligible, Vague.
Usage: *P.G. Wodehouse's style of writing can be best described as limpid, witty and very interesting.*

LUCID: (*adj.*)

Meaning: Expressed clearly; easy to understand.
Syn: Luminous, Unambiguous, Clear, Comprehensible, Intelligible, Knowable.
Ant: Clouded, Confused, Foggy, Murky, Obscure, Shadowy.
Usage: *In the AGM the CEO gave a very lucid and clear account of his plans for the company's future.*

LUXURIANT: (*adj.*)

Meaning: Growing thickly and strongly in a way that is attractive.
Syn: Lush, Opulent, Sumptuous, Abundant, Ample, Extravagant.
Ant: Poor, Barren, Plain, Meager, Penniless, Bankrupt.
Usage: *luxuriant vegetation.*

LUNACY: (*n.*)

Meaning: Behaviour that is stupid or crazy.
Syn: Absurdity, Folly, Foolishness, Idiocy, Insanity, Silliness, Stupidity.
Ant: Intelligent, Judgment, Sense, Seriousness, Wisdom, Saneness.
Usage: *It's sheer lunacy driving in such weather.*

M

MARTINET (*n.*) a strict disciplinarian, especially in the armed forces
The CEO was a relentless critic of everyone's work, a stickler for punctuality and a martinet where accuracy was concerned.

MASOCHIST (*n.*) the tendency to derive pleasure, especially sexual gratification, from one's own pain or humiliation
In his opinion, one needed to be a masochist to enjoy participating in decathlons.

MERCENARY (*adj.*) (of a person or their behavior) primarily concerned with making money at the expense of ethics
The fact that UTI had started to concentrate on mercenary profits rather than steady returns, lead to the collapse of its flagship scheme US64.

MERCURIAL (*adj.*) (of a person) subject to sudden or unpredictable changes of mood or mind; of or containing the element mercury
Many astrologers feel that those born under the star sign Gemini have a mercurial temperament.

MERITORIOUS (*adj.*) deserving reward or praise
The soldier was posthumously awarded Param Vir Chakra for meritorious conduct.

METAPHOR (n) a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable

The sporting term 'being on the inside track' is used as a metaphor to mean 'having an advantage'.

MITIGATE (v) make less severe, serious, or painful.

The murderer managed to escape the death sentence because of mitigating circumstances.

MONOGAMY (n) the practice or state of being married to one person at a time.

For most people Indian culture is synonymous with certain ideal types such as dharma, beliefs in rebirth, salvation, caste system and monogamy.

N

NADIR (n) the lowest point in the fortunes of a person or organization.

The actor defied his detractors who had predicted that he had reached the nadir of his career by coming out with an award winning performance.

NEBULOUS (adj) in the form of a cloud or haze; hazy.

Most teenagers require career counseling as they have only a nebulous idea about what they might like to do in the future.

NEONATE (n) a newborn child or mammal.

Most premature babies have to be kept in the neonatal units in the hospitals.

NICHE (n) a shallow recess, especially one in a wall to display a statue or other ornament.

Vishwanathan Anand has carved a niche for himself as a world class chess player.

NIHILISM (n) total and absolute destructiveness, esp. toward the world at large and including oneself.

Why should great communities be afraid of Nihilism?

NOMADIC (adj) a person with no fixed residence who roams about; a wanderer.

A daughter of railway engineer, she at first had a somewhat nomadic childhood.

NOVICE (n) a person new to or inexperienced in the field or situation in which they are placed.

Though being a novice in a company he has completed his project with full accuracy

NUANCE (n) a subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound.

Amitabh Bachchan's rich and artistic performance was full of nuance.

O

OBDURATE (adj) stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action.

The bilateral talks between the nations failed as they refused to compromise on their obdurate stands.

OBSEQUIOUS (adj) obedient or attentive to an excessive or servile degree.

Instead of endearing him to his superiors, his obsequious behavior made him quite unpopular.

OBVIATE (v) remove (a need or difficulty).

A peaceful solution would obviate the need to send UN military forces.

ONEROUS (adj) (of a task, duty, or responsibility) involving an amount of effort and difficulty which is oppressively burdensome.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Narsimha Rao tried his best to remove the onerous rules and regulations that were discouraging foreign investment in India.

OSTENTATIOUS (adj) characterized by vulgar or pretentious display; designed to impress or attract notice.

The ostentatious lifestyle of our politicians is in direct contrast to the realities faced by millions of countrymen living below poverty line.

OSTRACISM (n) exclude (someone) from a society or group.

Despite awareness campaigns, AIDS patients still experience discrimination and social ostracism.

P

PANACEA (n) cure all.

Many analysts regard 'education' as the only panacea for India's problems.

PARADOX (n) contradiction, incongruity, dilemma, puzzle.

It is a paradox that although Ravi rarely exercises, yet he maintains excellent health.

PARAGON (n) model of excellence or perfection.

GE's Jack Welch is regarded as the paragon for leadership.

PATRICIDE (n) murder of one's father.

The term Oedipus complex owes its origins to the Greek mythology where Oedipus commits patricide and later maims himself.

PENCHANT (n) inclination.

The books of Arthur Hailey clearly show his penchant for details.

PHOBIA (n) exaggerated, illogical fear

The best way to conquer one's phobias is to face them.

PRODIGIOUS (adj) vast, enormous, extraordinary.

Shakespeare wrote truly a prodigious number of plays

Q

QUANDARY (n) dilemma, difficulty.

Nikhil got selected in both IIM Calcutta and IIM Bangalore and was in a real quandary about which institute to join.

QUELL (v) to crush or subdue.

In 1857, the British quelled the freedom movement launched in India.

QUIXOTIC (adj) overly idealistic, impractical.

Scott Adams has made a name for himself by giving creative but quixotic advice to people in business.

R

RAVENOUS (adj) extremely hungry.

Growing children have ravenous appetites and need nourishing food not just junk food.

REBUKE (v) to reprimand, scold.

The worker received a stern rebuke from the supervisor for arriving at work an hour late.

RECLUSIVE (adj) shut off from the world.

Always an introvert child, he grew increasingly reclusive with age.

REGRESS (v) to move backward, revert to an earlier form or state.

Too much study has caused him to regress to his former state of madness.

RESTIVE (adj) impatient, uneasy, restless.

A person with this type of mental disorder becomes restive, anxious and nervous.

RETICENT (adj) not speaking freely, reserved.

His reticence about answering questions in the personal interview led to his rejection.

RETIRING (adj) shy, modest, reserved.

It is very difficult to find a retiring politician who hates parties and publicity.

S

SANGUINE (adj) hopeful, cheerfully optimistic.

After taking CAT, Rohit was sanguine about getting calls from the IIMs.

SATIATE (v) to satisfy.

The company can hardly produce enough of these cars to satiate public demand.

SCOFF (v) deride, ridicule.

The leader of opposition scoffed at the suggestion that his party was about to lose the elections.

SCEPTICAL (adj) doubtful, questioning.

Some people feel that lowering of the fees of IIMs is a step in the right direction, but many experts remain sceptical about this.

SOMNOLENT (adj) drowsy, sleepy, inducing sleep.

Because of the speaker's somnolent voice audience found it difficult to concentrate on his speech.

SUAVE (adj) smoothly gracious or polite, blandly ingratiating.

I am Fleming created James Bond as a suave, sophisticated, well spoken killer.

SUBDUED (adj) suppressed, quiet and rather reflective or depressed.

After his PI at XLRI, Sunil sat subdued in the corner of the room refusing to speak to anyone.

SUPERCILIOUS (adj) arrogant, haughty and condescending.

The principal of the school spoke in a very supercilious voice to the parents of the young student seeking admission.

T

TACIT (adj) silently understood or implied.

The two sides reached a tacit agreement.

TANGIBLE (adj) able to be sensed, perceptible, measurable.

The intangible benefits of the promotion was an increase in job satisfaction, the tangible included an increase in salary and lesser working hours.

TENUOUS (adj) weak, insubstantial.

The student gave a rather tenuous explanation when he was asked to explain his absence.

TEPID (adj) lukewarm, showing little enthusiasm.

The manager got a tepid response to his suggestion that the workers should start work earlier.

TERSE (adj) concise, brief, free of extra words.

In a terse statement yesterday, the company announced that it was firing 20 % of its staff.

TIRADE (n) long, violent speech, verbal assault.

He delivered a long tirade against Sonia Gandhi.

TORTUOUS (adj) having many twists and turns, highly complex.

With the breakthrough in IndoPak talks, the path to peace seems at last to be clear although it may be a long and tortuous one.

TRIUMPH exhort, concord, inimical, vanguard.

This article will try to guide you as to how you can triumph over the shock of the initial diagnosis.

U

UBIQUITOUS (adj) being everywhere simultaneously.

Television has become the most ubiquitous of consumer electronic appliances.

UNCTUOUS (adj) greasy, oily, smug and falsely earnest.

The salesman used his most unctuous voice to convince the lady to buy his product.

UNDERMINE (v) to sabotage, thwart.

Most of the times criticism of the children undermines their confidence.

V

VAGRANT (n) a person without a settled home or regular work who wanders from place to place and lives by begging.

The USA atrocities in Iraq have made too many vagrant.

VAPID (adj) offering nothing that is stimulating or challenging.

A vapid presentation bored the students.

VEHEMENT (adj) showing strong feeling; forceful, passionate, or intense.

The outright rejection of the petition made him react vehemently.

VERBOSE (adj) using or expressed in more words than are needed.

Although being an orator par excellence, his verbose mannerism made him stray from the topic frequently.

VICARIOUS (adj) experienced in the imagination through the feelings or actions of another person.

Irfan's portrayal was vicarious and it fetched him a National award.

VIRTUOSO (n) a person highly skilled in music or another artistic pursuit.

Cole was a virtuoso on piano.

VIVACIOUS (adj) attractively lively and animated.

The Indian cricket team will have to show vivacious tenacity if they wish to crush their opponents.

VOLUBLE (adj) speaking or spoken incessantly and fluently.

Rajni's voluble excuses were not sufficient enough to escape punishment.

VORACIOUS (adj) wanting or devouring great quantities of food.

Some people have a voracious appetite.

VULNERABLE (adj) exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.

Saurav is vulnerable when facing the shortpitched assaults from Shoib.

W

WANTON (adj) deliberate and unprovoked.

Having fortunately inherited a fortune, the man depicted wanton extravagance.

WARY (adj) feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems.

Sudhir is wary to using lifts.

WIN SOME (adj) attractive or appealing in appearance or character.

Endowed with a winsome personality and a razor sharp mind, success was all his.

WIZENED (adj) shriveled or wrinkled with age.

The door creaked open to present a wizened, battered old man.

X

XENOPHOBIA (n) intense or irrational dislike or fear of people from other countries

With a prevailing threat of xenophobia, tourism has suffered drastically.

Y

YOKE (n) a wooden crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of two animals and attached to the plough or cart that they are to pull.

Shravan carried his aged parents in baskets on a yoke on his shoulder.

Z

ZEALOT (n) person who is fanatical and uncompromising in pursuit of their religious, political, or other ideals.

When philosophically analyzed, terrorists are basic zealots.

ZENITH (n) the highest point reached by a celestial or other object.

His performance on the day reached its zenith and he won the championship.