

Covering Letter

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A few words ...

Dear Student,

This may be the first time you are contemplating an activity as focused as 'vocabulary building'. Some of you may have undertaken informal exercises on an irregular basis and if you have, then you already know what a pleasure it can be.

Questions based on vocabulary form an important part of most MBA entrance tests and we need not emphasise the importance of such an exercise. Besides this, a sound vocabulary will:

1. help you develop test-specific skills because vocabulary-based questions are one of the **fastest** and easiest ways to score well
2. provide indirect help in other test-related areas like reading comprehension and language usage
3. give you a **knowledge asset** that you can leverage throughout your career.

This book contains an **Alphabetical listing of Words**. We have tried our best to provide you with a list of the most commonly used words in a typical management entrance test. Enormous efforts have gone into making the content intensive as well as extensive. Put in a lot of intelligent, dedicated and focused effort and you will be able to reap rich rewards from this book.

Your work does not stop with the learning. Form friends who share the same passion about vocabulary building. **Continuous stimulation** and **reinforcement** of whatever you learn in the classroom are very important.

Before you start, a word of caution. Do not take words for granted. They have a way of getting even with those who do so.

Happy vocabulary building!

MBA entrance vocabulary

– An overview

There is no need to become a walking dictionary to succeed in entrance tests. What is needed is knowledge of the roots of words and the ability to relate a word to 'similar' or 'opposite' kind of words.

Essence of the test of vocabulary: Most tests do not check whether you know *exactly* what a particular word means. Even if you do not know the precise dictionary definition, if you have a good *idea* what the word means, you will score. The tests only want to see if you have a broad and diverse vocabulary capable of helping you carry out your managerial tasks.

Important observations: Our analysis of test papers over the last few years shows that most tests use the same kind of words. For example, all the words in the list that follows nearly mean the same thing. They all have something to do with the concept of criticism. The examination may well test you on one of these words or one of the other synonyms of '**criticise**'.

Criticise/Criticism: Calumny, castigate, chastise, deride, derisive, derogate, diatribe, harangue, lambast, oppugn, pillory, rebuke, remonstrate.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How is vocabulary checked in these tests?

A. A few MBA entrance tests check your vocabulary head on. These include **analogy** questions (determine the relationship between a pair of words); **antonym** questions (choose a word opposite in meaning to a particular word); **synonym** questions (choose a word similar in meaning); **odd-man-out** type questions (choose the word different in meaning from the other given words), etc. If you know the meaning of every word in the question, you can easily answer these questions. The more words you know, the better your chances of narrowing down the choices to the correct one.

Tests can also gauge your vocabulary indirectly, through Reading Comprehension passages and questions, questions that ask you to correct sentences and other questions based on critical reasoning. Students with a strong vocabulary have an edge when it comes to these questions.

Q. How are the words chosen for these tests?

A. The tests check if a student possesses a well-rounded vocabulary. This is the kind of vocabulary you need to read, write and speak effectively in college and beyond. "Test-worthy words" include those any educated person might use in speaking or writing, as well as those that are quite specific to a particular academic field.

Q. What kind of words am I not likely to find in the test?

A. It is difficult to be definite about this. However, a few types of words generally excluded from tests are:

- relatively common words that most graduates and undergraduates already know
- highly technical words understood only by specialists or experts in certain academic fields and professions
- non-English words that are not widely used among English speakers
- jargon, slang or colloquialisms
- archaic English words, which are no longer in common use

How to improve your English?

Learning to speak English (or any language for that matter) is a process. It takes some time and it definitely needs consistency.

1. Remember that learning English is a **gradual process**. It does not happen overnight.
2. Define your **learning objectives** early. What do you want to learn and why?
3. Make learning a **habit**. Try to learn **something every day**. It is much better to study (or read or listen to English news etc.) 30 minutes each day than study for 4 hours just once a week.
4. Choose your **study material** well. You will need material to help you with reading, grammar, writing, speaking and listening.
5. **Vary your learning routine**. It is best to do different things each day to help keep the relationships among different areas active.
6. Converse and study with **friends** who are also learning English. Learning English together can be very encouraging.
7. Choose listening and reading material that relate to what you are **interested** in. Your interest in the subject will make learning more enjoyable and more effective.
8. Relate grammar to practical usage. Grammar by itself does not help you use the language. You should **practise** what you are learning by employing it actively.
9. Move your mouth! Understanding something doesn't mean the muscles of your mouth can produce the sound. **Practise speaking** aloud. It may appear strange but it is very effective.
10. **Be patient** with yourself. Remember that learning is a process. Speaking a language well takes time.
11. **Communicate!** There is nothing like communicating in English for being successful. Grammar exercises are good. It is fantastic to have your friend on the other side of the world understand your e-mail.
12. **Use the Internet**. The Internet is the most exciting, unlimited English resource available and it is right at your fingertips.

To sum up,

- Remember that English learning is a process
- Be patient with yourself
- Practise, practise, practise

How to develop interest and learning skills simultaneously

Let us see some very basic ways to **build up interest** in reading and thus enrich your word power. Try one or more of these at your convenience. What appears most appealing will probably work best for you.

1. **Make a list of subjects that fascinate you most.** The more you enjoy a topic, the easier it is to learn about it. Go to your local library and search for a dictionary of words specific to the topic. If you like *Economics*, find a dictionary of words used in Economics. Not every topic will have its own dictionary but you'll be surprised how many do. Once you have found a dictionary, browse through it. Look for words that you have never heard or words you have heard but do not understand. The sheer joy of discovering the words and their meanings will help them sink into your memory. Since they relate to your favourite topic, you will practise and use them regularly with all the commitment needed to make them a part of regular conversation.
2. People favour different words in different parts of the country. Try picking up or **subscribing to a newspaper** from another part of the country. Enlist a friend or relative from another area to join you in your vocabulary improvement mission. Offer to send him/her a copy of your heaviest city newspaper in exchange. Or go online and read such a newspaper online for free.
3. In order to make learning easier and more productive, use flash cards to **master** several words at once. Pick four words that all have the same or similar meanings and write them on one side. Write their meanings on the other side. You will be learning four words and one definition with slightly subtle changes. Effectively, you will learn four times as much in about the same time. Such flash cards are part of the study material accompanying this book. Add your own flash cards to enhance your learning.
4. **Object words** are easier to learn. You will be learning the definition of a word which is also a tangible item you can picture in your mind. Go to a curio shop, speciality store or a museum you have never been to before. Pick up brochures or other documents that describe what you are seeing. Let the mental pictures drive the names of these items and their descriptions deep into your mind for later recall.
5. You learn a lot more by being humble than by being proud. When you are trying to place an address in a new locality, you should be willing to stop and ask for directions. Similarly, you shouldn't be afraid to do some investigation when you encounter a new word. Look it up or even have the courage to ask. **Go on a word hunt**. Write down what you did not understand. Do not rest until you hunt down the word and its meaning. The satisfaction of victory over your ignorance of that one word will bolster your confidence and you will be pumped up to master many more words.

Easy ways to improve your vocabulary

➤ **Ask yourself every week: *What do I want to learn this week?***

Asking yourself this question every week will help you stop and think about what is most important to you. It is easy to focus only on the current alphabet, exercise, etc. If you take a moment to stop and **set a goal** for yourself every week, you will notice the progress you are making and, in turn, become more inspired by how quickly you are learning English! You will be surprised at how this feeling of success will motivate you to learn more and more.

➤ **Break up the task into small and manageable pieces**

Do not try to cram words. Instead, tackle about 20 to 30 words at a time. In this book, you will find that we have divided the words into manageable chunks.

➤ **Learn words in the context of a story**

This is a very beautiful way of learning. You learn with reference to the context. Try and write short paragraphs with respect to some specific words. Also use 10 to 15 newly learnt words in this paragraph.

➤ **Discuss words with your friends**

Form a small group of friends interested in vocabulary building. You and your friends should be excited to discover and discuss new words. Use new words while talking to your friends. You should make it a way of your life.

➤ **Quickly review important new words shortly before going to bed**

Research has shown that our brains process information that is fresh in our mind while we sleep. By going over some exercise, or by reading before you go to bed, your brain will work away on this information while you sleep! Sounds interesting?

➤ **While doing exercises and when alone at home or in your room, speak English aloud**

Connect the muscles of your face to the information in your head. Just as understanding the basics of tennis does not make you a great tennis player, understanding grammar rules does not mean you can automatically speak English well. You need to **practise the act of speaking** often. Speaking by yourself at home and reading the exercises will help connect your brain to your facial muscles, improve pronunciation and make your knowledge active.

➤ **Look for situations in which you must speak/read/listen to English**

This is probably the most important tip. You need to use English in a **real world** situation. Learning English in a classroom is important but putting your English knowledge into practice in real situations will improve your fluency. If you cannot think of any "real life" situation, **create situations** by using the Internet or the radio to listen to news, write English responses wherever possible, exchange e-mails in English with friends, etc.

Our approach

Exercises

In the classroom sessions, you will be given **regular exercises** that test and reinforce your vocabulary-related knowledge on a continuous basis. If you take these exercises seriously, **tremendous advantages** will accrue to you.

Pronunciation

Another important part of learning vocabulary is learning the correct pronunciation of each word. You are advised to look up the pronunciation from a good dictionary whenever you come across a new word. In order to help you with the correct pronunciation of the words which have rather unusual pronunciations, we have given a very easy-to-use pronunciation key along with such words. This way as you improve your vocabulary, you will also improve your spoken language abilities.

Some innovative (but time consuming!) ways to help yourself

Maintain a personal dictionary/vocabulary book

Develop your own personal dictionary/vocabulary book. This will be a major help in the long run in improving your language abilities.

You can put in important information that is not in other dictionaries. For example,

- you can include information in any language (you can write the pronunciation in your mother tongue)

- you can draw pictures to help you remember better
- you can write the sentence where you first found the word and translate the whole sentence
- you can put in collocations (words that often go together; e.g. a light meal)
- you can add different connotations (words which describe the same thing but give you a good or bad impression according to the context; e.g. 'freedom fighter' and 'terrorist')
- you can include different parts of speech for the same headword (for example, you can include various forms of the headword jump, like jumped, jumping and jumper)
- you can compare how to use the word in English and in your own language
- you can indicate whether the word is formal or informal; e.g. 'a meeting' or 'a get-together'.

Using your own dictionary is faster.

- It only contains words you need, so it has fewer entries and it is easier to search for the word you need.
- You can put in words that are not headwords in a normal dictionary, such as 'jumped', rather than 'jump'.
 - You can put in any type of information that would otherwise require you to refer to different types of dictionaries. For example, you can include information from technical, pictorial, mono-lingual and bi-lingual dictionaries under one headword. Therefore, you only need to look in one place to find all the information.
 - You can do away with confusing abbreviations and write what you need to know in full. For example, you can write 'Uncountable noun' instead of [U].

A noun

Word : **Fluke**

Meaning : Something good that happens by accident and good luck
(It also means a whale's tail but this is a rare and technical meaning.)

Example : 'The goal was a **fluke** as the ball went between the goalkeeper's legs.'

Pronunciation: /flu:k/

Grammar : Countable noun.

Plurals are unusual but grammatically possible;
e.g. "Their goals were all flukes but ours were skilful!"

An expression

It's raining cats and dogs.

Meaning: It's raining heavily.

Note: This expression is a bit old-fashioned, it is not used much nowadays.

A modern equivalent is : "It's pouring."

An adverb

Word : **Badly**

Meaning: adverb of 'bad'

Pronunciation: /bædli/

Examples:

- 'He did very badly in his test, so he will have to read the study material again.'
- 'This is a badly-written assignment.'

An idiom

To swallow a/the dictionary

Meaning: To use long and unnecessarily complicated words and expressions, especially in normal conversation.

Example: "He talks like he has swallowed a dictionary, I can't understand half of what he says."

Using a card system

A card system is as good as a personal dictionary or vocabulary notebook but here each entry is on a separate card. And you can even order the cards into three sections.

- Section One : Words you already know well
- Section Two : Words you want to revise
- Section Three : Words you are now learning

As you learn more, you can move words from Section One to Section Two and then to Section Three.

Here is a sample card.

Front of the card

Expression meaning

Once in a blue moon

Back of the card

'extremely rarely'.

Example: "He smiles once in a blue moon."

The phrase refers to the appearance of a second full moon within a calendar month, which actually happens rarely, about every 32 months.

Great vocabulary learning tips

- **Read, read, read !** Most words are learned from context. The more words you're exposed to, the better your vocabulary. While you read, pay close attention to words you don't know. First, try to figure out their meanings from context. Then look the words up. Read and listen to challenging material so that you'll be exposed to many new words. What should you read? Refer to the Standard Booklist given in the Student's Handbook.
- **Practise, practise, practise.** Learning a word won't help very much if you promptly forget it. Our research shows that it takes from 10 to 20 repetitions to really make a word part of your vocabulary. It helps to write the word - both the definition and a sentence you make up using the word - perhaps on an index card that can later be reviewed. As soon as you learn a new word, start using it.
- **Make up as many associations and connections as possible.** Say the word aloud to activate your auditory memory. Relate the word to words you already know. For example, the word gargantuan (very large) has a meaning similar to the words gigantic, huge, large, cornucopian etc. You could make a sequence: small, medium, large, very large, gargantuan. List as many things as you can that could be considered gargantuan: Godzilla, the fat person, the zit on your nose, etc. Create pictures related to the word's meaning that involve strong emotions. Think "the gargantuan creature was going to rip me apart and then eat me!"
- **Use mnemonics (memory tricks).** For example, consider the word egregious (extremely bad). Think EGG REACH US - imagine we've made a mistake so bad that they are throwing eggs at us and a rotten EGG REACHES US. Such funny little mental pictures are fun to make up and will help you remember what words mean. Also, find out which learning style suits you best. Everyone learns differently!
- **Get in the habit of looking up words you don't know.** If you have a dictionary program on your computer, keep it open and handy. Or always keep a good dictionary close to you when you read or write. Use a thesaurus when you want to use the word that fits best. (Don't know what "thesaurus" means? Look it up in the dictionary!)
- **Play with words.** Play scrabble, boggle and do crossword puzzles. These and other word games are available on the computer, so you do not need a partner to play.
- **Use vocabulary lists and take the tests.** For serious vocabulary students, using vocabulary lists like the ones given here will be a major help. And the tests are great fun even as they let you know where you stand.

Finally, how you should use this book

As you go through the various sections you'll find that in addition to the traditional dictionary approach to vocabulary, we've also tried to look at words from various other angles like human attributes, animal attributes, manias, phobias, confusing words etc.

You could read this book straight through from cover to cover or focus on certain parts, depending on how you prefer to learn new words and how much time you have. Here's a brief description of each part, along with some suggestions for using your study time most effectively.

➤ **Alphabetical wordlists**

This is an anytime dictionary for you which we have framed as per the test requirements. Here, you can systematically choose a set of words and go after them. Think of this as the ultimate reference for MBA entrance!

➤ **Foreign words in English**

English as a language has assimilated a large number of words from different languages and that is one reason it's often referred to as a catholic language. Although the words given in this part are essentially foreign, they are used freely as part of the English language itself.

➤ **Topicwise words**

This will provide you with a more interesting style of learning wherein you can relate words to human behaviour, animal characteristics, anatomy, phobias etc. You will benefit more if you are able to relate these words to happenings or observations from daily life.

➤ **Confusing words**

While building up your word power, a common happening is that you get yourself entangled among several words. This special section on confusable will help to make your journey go smoother. Keep returning to this section till you are very sure of these tricky words.

➤ **Idioms and phrases**

This section will expose you to various usages popular among English speakers. You may never be asked the meaning directly, but knowledge of these idioms and phrases will help you in other test areas like Reading Comprehension.

➤ **Jargons**

Words dealing with specialised areas like law, games, geography etc. are usually missed out. Go through these words and make sentences so that you are very familiar with these words.

➤ **Phrasal verbs**

This part deals with usage of verbs (called phrasal verbs), which when followed by various prepositions or adverbs, acquire an idiomatic sense. This part includes several examples to help you understand the correct usage of these phrasal verbs.

➤ **Roots/Suffixes/Prefixes**

Vocabulary learning can never be complete without knowing the origin and usage of words. Once you are thorough with this part, it will be easier for you to understand the meaning of new words.

The following pages are an expressway into the land of words, words that will help you express your way to success. On your marks, get set and vroooooom!

Alphabetical Wordlist

“A”

ABACK Adv.

backwards; hence *taken aback* means taken by surprise

- ☒ Australia was taken aback when lowly Bangladesh beat them in the one day cricket match.

ABASE V.

to lower, to degrade, to humiliate

- ☒ **Syn.** fall, debase, devalue, defile
- * **Ant.** honour, upgrade, grace, elevate
- ☒ The president is not willing to abase himself before the nation and admit that he made a mistake.

ABASH V.

to strike with shame, to embarrass

- ☒ **Syn.** awe, humiliate, humble, deflate
- * **Ant.** embolden, reassure
- ☒ He was a little abashed at being caught red-handed accepting the bribe.

ABATE V.

to lessen, to nullify, to decrease, moderate, slacken, wane

- ☒ **Syn.** lessen, shrink
- * **Ant.** increase, augment, swell, grow
- ☒ The deepest of pain abates with the passage of time.

ABANDON N.

total lack of inhibition

V. to leave, give up

- ☒ **Syn.** recklessness, carelessness, desert, discontinue
- * **Ant.** restraint, caution, retain, continue
- ☒ With her strict parents out of the way, Shilpa danced all night with abandon.

ABDICATE

to give up a position, right, or power

- ☒ **Syn.** relinquish, renounce
- * **Ant.** accept, accede to
- ☒ As the angry mob marched towards the palace, the king abdicated his throne and fled.

ABDUCT V. ABDUCTION N.

to forcefully take away

- ☒ **Syn.** kidnap, carry off, steal, nab
- * **Ant.** deliver, rescue, salvage, liberate
- ☒ The abduction of railway passengers in Bihar is a usual occurrence.

ABERRATION

something different from the usual

- ☒ **Syn.** digression, deviation
- * **Ant.** normality, regularity
- ☒ The marketing manager said: "There appears to be an aberration in the sales figure."

ABET V.

to give encouragement, to help, to aid, assist, usually in doing some wrong, encourage a bad act, foment, instigate

- ☒ **Syn.** be an accomplice, help, support
- * **Ant.** oppose, protest, hinder, hamper
- ☒ The law has penalties for those who aid and abet a criminal.

ABEYANCE

temporary suppression or suspension

- ☒ **Syn.** unresolved, incomplete
- * **Ant.** continuing, under way
- ☒ Shweta held all celebrations in abeyance while the college review board considered her application.

ABHOR

to loathe, detest

- ☒ **Syn.** despise, abominate
- * **Ant.** love, admire
- ☒ When the theorems became too confusing, Radha began to abhor geometry.

ABJECT

miserable, pitiful

- ☒ **Syn.** appalling, contemptible
- * **Ant.** proud, respected
- ☒ We took pity on the abject creature and tended to its broken leg.

ABJURE

to reject, abandon formally

- ☒ **Syn.** renounce, repudiate
- * **Ant.** cherish, retain
- ☒ The president claimed that he was misled and publicly abjured his old stand.

ABLUTION

act of cleansing

- ☒ **Syn.** purification, sanctification
- * **Ant.** contamination, defilement
- ☒ The devotees waited as the priest finished his ablution before opening the temple.

ABNEGATION N.

renunciation, self-sacrifice

- ☒ **Syn.** negation, negative, nay
- ☒ Walking out on his family like that was a total abnegation of his responsibilities.

ABORTIVE

stopped before completion, failed attempt

- ☒ **Syn.** unsuccessful, unprogressive
- * **Ant.** effective, fruitful
- ☒ He was frustrated after his abortive attempts for the CEO's position.

ABOLISH V.

to put an end to, to do away with

- ☑ **Syn.** eliminate, stop, eradicate, annul
- * **Ant.** establish, found, start, create
- ☒ It is important that casteism is abolished in India if any social harmony is to be achieved.

ABOMINABLE Adj. **ABOMINATE** V.

Detestable, extremely unpleasant, very bad

- ☑ **Syn.** repulsive, monstrous, detestable
- ☒ The prisoners are forced to live in abominable conditions.

ABORT V.

to fail to go forward or develop as expected, to miscarry, to terminate early

- ☑ **Syn.** end, abandon, stop midstream
- ☒ The Columbia mission had to be aborted for several reasons, one of which was bad weather.

ABRASIVE Adj. **ABRASION** N. **ABRADE** V.

tending to abrade, annoying, irritating, caustic, rubbing away, tending to grind down, causing bad feelings of annoyance

- ☑ **Syn.** rough, harsh, rasping, scratchy
- ☒ A professional has no business being abrasive in speech or action.

ABRIDGE

to condense, shorten

- ☑ **Syn.** condense, compress
- * **Ant.** expand, enlarge
- ☒ The editor made sure that the abridged version of the novel was as exciting as the original.

ABROGATE

to put an end to, abolish by authority

- ☑ **Syn.** nullify, invalidate
- * **Ant.** ratify, validate
- ☒ Following the firing, the Prime Minister threatened to abrogate the treaty with the neighbouring country.

ABSCOND

to depart secretly

- ☑ **Syn.** flee, run away
- * **Ant.** arrest, stay
- ☒ Senior officers were taken by surprise as the policeman under suspension absconded with a loaded weapon.

ABSOLVE

to forgive, free from blame

- ☑ **Syn.** acquit, exonerate
- * **Ant.** condemn, incriminate
- ☒ The queen absolved the general from blame for the defeat.

ABSCESS N.

boil, pimple, ulcer, localised accumulation of pus in body tissues

- ☑ **Syn.** sore, swelling, eruption, pustule
- ☒ You need a surgeon to remove this abscess.

ABSTEMIOUS Adj.

sparing in food, drink or enjoyment, moderate, temperate

- ☑ **Syn.** self-denying, ascetic, sober
- * **Ant.** wild, abandoned, unreserved
- ☒ It is strange to see the bulging bellies of our so-called abstemious saints.

ABSTAIN V., **abstinence** N.

to refrain deliberately

- ☒ The best way to abstain from alcohol is to avoid friends who indulge in it.

ABSTRACT

theoretical, summation

- ☑ **Syn.** conceptual, synopsis
- * **Ant.** actual, concrete, full-version
- ☒ She finds it difficult to understand abstract concepts like beauty and love.

ABSTRUSE

difficult to understand

- ☑ **Syn.** perplexing, complicated
- * **Ant.** clear, obvious
- ☒ The concept was rather abstruse, but the philosopher's simple explanation helped the group to understand it clearly.

ABUNDANT Adj.

ample, copious, luxuriant, overflowing

- ☑ **Syn.** plentiful, copious, rich, profuse
- * **Ant.** meagre, scarce, inadequate
- ☒ We took an abundant supply of food with us when we went hiking in the mountains.

ABUT V.

to end, to touch, to border upon, adjoin

- ☑ **Syn.** be next to, lie alongside
- ☒ The shed abutted the side of the house.

ACCEDE

to express approval, agree to

- ☑ **Syn.** endorse, comply
- * **Ant.** refuse, deny
- ☒ When the mayor proposed lower taxes, the people readily acceded.

ACCENT N.

stress on a word/theory etc., a way of speaking of a particular group

- ☑ **Syn.** inflection, intonation, twang
- ☒ His accent gave away his rustic origins.

ACCESSIBLE

attainable, available, approachable

- ☑ **Syn.** obtainable, reachable
- * **Ant.** inapproachable, unreachable
- ☒ Preeti was surprised that the famous professor was so accessible, inviting students to visit him at all hours.

ACCESSORY

attachment, ornament, accomplice, partner

- ☑ **Syn.** appendage, appurtenance
- * **Ant.** principal, adversary
- ☒ The tiepin may be just an accessory, but it can make a major difference to your appearance.

ACCLAIM N., V.

commendation, citation, eulogy, applaud, announce with great approval

- ☑ **Syn.** applause, cheer, encomium
- * **Ant.** disapprove, odium, boycott
- ☒ She was universally acclaimed for her contribution to the discovery.

ACCOMMODATE V. ACCOMMODATION N.

contain, hold, adjust, reconcile, cater, oblige or help someone; adjust or bring into harmony

- ☑ **Syn.** house, lodge, help, adjust
- ☒ In Mumbai, a pigeonhole often accommodates an entire family.

ACCOLADE

praise, distinction

- ☑ **Syn.** honour, recognition
- * **Ant.** criticism, disparagement
- ☒ The winners of the contest beamed as the audience heaped accolades on them.

ACCOMPLICE N.

conspirator, companion, coworker, associate in a crime

- ☑ **Syn.** accessory, co-conspirator
- ☒ The police nabbed the accomplice after a dramatic chase.

ACCORDANCE Adj.

conformity, agreement, concurrence

- ☑ **Syn.** agreement, harmony, unity
- ☒ In accordance with her wishes, she was buried in France.

ACCOST

to approach and speak to someone

- ☑ **Syn.** confront, waylay
- * **Ant.** retreat, withdraw
- ☒ Furious, Mahima accosted the man who had trampled on her flower bed and demanded an apology.

ACCOUTREMENT N.

dress, equipment, habiliment, paraphernalia

- ☒ The sporting accoutrements of today are technically much superior to those of old.

ACCRETION

growth in size or increase in amount

- ☑ **Syn.** accumulation, amassing
- * **Ant.** erosion, attrition
- ☒ Year after year of bumper crops led to a steady accretion in the farmer's wealth.

ACCRUE

to accumulate, grow by additions

- ☑ **Syn.** amass, build up
- * **Ant.** disperse, diffuse
- ☒ Before long, the accrued interest was far larger than the principal.

ACE Adj.

of highest quality, outstanding

- ☑ **Syn.** first rate, world class, winner
- * **Ant.** miserable, terrible, abysmal
- ☒ The ace detective was not fooled by the numerous red herrings in his path.

ACERBIC Adj. ACERBITY N.

bitter and sour, corrosive

- ☑ **Syn.** acidulous, cutting, caustic, mordant
- * **Ant.** mild, gentle, meek, placid, calm
- ☒ The chairman was acerbic in criticising the members of the board.
- ☒ She was hurt by the acerbity in his tone.

ACME

highest point, summit

- ☑ **Syn.** pinnacle, zenith
- * **Ant.** pit, nadir
- ☒ The dictator was assassinated just as he reached the acme of his power.

ACOLYTE N.

an assistant, a faithful follower

- ☒ He had hordes of acolytes to ensure his victory at the elections.

ACOUSTIC Adj. ACOUSTICS pl (N.)

related to theory of sound or hearing, quality that makes a room easy or hard to hear in

- ☑ **Syn.** audio, aural, auditory, sound
- ☒ The auditorium has perfect acoustics.
- ☒ Animals use a whole range of acoustic, visual and chemical signals in their systems of communication.

ACQUISITION N.

possession, property, addition, gain, prize

- ☑ **Syn.** attainment, achievement
- * **Ant.** loss, defeat, beating, hammering
- ☒ Economic reforms have unleashed a spate of acquisitions in the corporate world.

ACQUIESCE

to agree, comply quietly

- ☑ **Syn.** concur with, consent to
- * **Ant.** forbid, object
- ☒ The princess acquiesced to the king's demands, but she was not happy about it.

ACQUITTAL

release from blame

- ☑ **Syn.** discharge, exoneration
- * **Ant.** conviction, incarceration
- ☒ The public was astonished at the acquittal of the serial killer.

ACRIMONY

bitterness, animosity

- ☑ **Syn.** resentment, causticity
- * **Ant.** goodwill, benevolence
- ☒ The evident acrimony between the couple made everyone feel uncomfortable.

ACRID Adj.

bitter, pungent, sarcastic, acerbic, vitriolic, caustic, sharp, biting

- ☑ **Syn.** choking, unpleasant, harsh
- * **Ant.** savoury, delectable
- ☒ Clouds of acrid smoke issued from the building.

ACRIMONIOUS Adj. ACRIMONY N.

full of bitterness in words or manner

- ☑ **Syn.** spiteful, rancorous, hostile
- * **Ant.** musical, congruent, cordial
- ☒ The whole issue provoked an acrimonious debate which lasted all afternoon.

ACROBAT N.

gymnast, tumbler

- ☑ **Syn.** trapeze artist, circus performer
- ☒ He changes his loyalty with the ease of an acrobat.
- ☒ I was always fascinated by the acrobats at the circus.

ACRONYM N.

a word formed from the initial letters of other words

- ☑ **Syn.** short form, contraction, ellipsis
- ☒ GATT, FERA, Laser, Radar, Maser, TRIPs, TRIMs, VAT etc.
- Note:** WTO, OECD, UN, ICICI, SBI, MRTP etc. are abbreviations and not acronyms. An abbreviation is the shortened form of something. An acronym is a word formed from the first letters of a series of words. Unlike an abbreviation, an acronym is usually pronounced as a word and not letter by letter.

ACTUARY N. ACTUARIAL Adj.

A statistician who computes insurance risks and premiums.

- ☒ Rohit's father is an actuary; no wonder his knowledge of statistics is so good.

ACTUATE V.

to put something into action, to start something, motivate

- ☑ **Syn.** drive, incite, goad, instigate
- * **Ant.** hinder, deter, restrain
- ☒ The writings of Karl Marx actuated the October Revolution in Russia.

ACUITY N.

keenness of perception; sharpness

- ☒ Sara's acuity of taste landed her a wine-taster's job.

ACUMEN

sharpness of insight

- ☑ **Syn.** astuteness, sagacity
- * **Ant.** witlessness, idiocy
- ☒ The portfolio manager's financial acumen helped his clients to become rich.

ACUTE

sharp, pointed, severe

- ☑ **Syn.** excruciating, piercing
- * **Ant.** vague, dull
- ☒ The government has announced certain emergency measures to deal with the acute shortage of food.

ADAGE

old saying or proverb

- ☑ **Syn.** aphorism, axiom
- * **Ant.** nonsense, paradox
- ☒ "A penny saved is a penny earned" is a popular adage.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. abdicate | a. theoretical |
| 2. aberration | b. award |
| 3. abstract | c. hard to understand |
| 4. abstruse | d. deviation |
| 5. accolade | e. step down from power |

1.(e) 2.(d) 3.(a) 4.(c) 5.(b)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

ADAMANT

uncompromising, unyielding

- ☑ **Syn.** uncompromising, obdurate
- * **Ant.** flexible, adaptable
- ☒ The landlord was adamant and refused to go away until the tenant paid the rent.

ADAPT

to accommodate, adjust

- ☑ **Syn.** acclimatise, conform
- * **Ant.** preserve, unfit
- ☒ Although it may be difficult at first, but we all have to adapt to the new computer system.

ADDLE V.

become rotten, confuse

- ☒ She addled everyone with her plans.

ADDUCE V.

to quote examples in a discussion or a debate

- ☑ **Syn.** propose, volunteer, give
- * **Ant.** disprove, refute, withdraw
- ☒ He adduced our presence in a bar as evidence that Shweta and I were having an affair.

ADEPT Adj.

highly skilled, consummate, proficient, expert at

- ☑ **Syn.** expert, adroit, clever
- * **Ant.** novice, beginner, clumsy, sloppy
- ☒ Big businessmen have to be adept at handling the press.

ADHERE

to cling to or follow without deviation

- ☑ **Syn.** stick to, cohere
- * **Ant.** flout, ignore
- ☒ He was a strict Catholic who adhered to all the teachings of the Church.

ADIEU N.

a farewell

- ☑ **Syn.** goodbye, bon voyage, sayonara
- * **Ant.** salutation, welcome, greet
- ☒ I hate to bid adieu to any loved one.
- ☒ She bade him adieu and left for want of quorum.

ADIPOSE Adj.

of or related to animal fat

- ☒ "The adipose deposits around your waist look ugly," said Dinesh to his wife.

ADJOURN V.

to postpone, put off to another date

- ☑ **Syn.** suspend, differ, delay, stop, end
- * **Ant.** advance, expedite
- ☒ The Lok Sabha was adjourned as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

ADJUDICATE V. ADJUDICATION N.

to act as a judge or determiner

- ☑ **Syn.** arbitrate, sit in judgment, referee
- ☒ We will adjudicate the matter as soon as all of the jurors arrive.

ADJUNCT N.

something or someone attached to but holding a subordinate position

- ☑ **Syn.** addition, appendage, extra
- ☒ I hoped I would find the computer course a useful adjunct to my other studies.

ADJURE V.

to charge on oath or to command solemnly under

- ☑ **Syn.** swear in, entreat, beseech
- ☒ The judge adjured him to answer truthfully.

ADMONISH

to caution or reprimand

- ☑ **Syn.** reproach, chastise
- * **Ant.** encourage, praise
- ☒ My mother admonished me for my poor grades.

ADORE V. ADORABLE Adj. **ADORATION N.**

dote on, idolise, love, worship, revere, venerate

- ☑ **Syn.** worship, esteem, respect, admire
- * **Ant.** hate, abhorrence, detestation
- ☒ Both girls adored their father very much.
- ☒ Aishwarya receives a lot of adoration because of her beauty and humility.

ADORN V.

decorate, beautify, garnish,

- ☑ **Syn.** embellish, polish, glamorise
- * **Ant.** blemish, disfigure, distort
- ☒ The bride's hair was adorned with pearls and white flowers.

ADROIT

skillful, accomplished, highly competent

- ☑ **Syn.** dextrous, adept
- * **Ant.** clumsy, inept
- ☒ The potter shaped the vessel so adroitly that the visitor could not help applauding.

ADULATION

high praise

- ☑ **Syn.** exaltation, idolisation
- * **Ant.** detestation, abhorrence
- ☒ After Adnan's maiden piano recital, the adulation was so overwhelming that he shed tears of joy.

ADULTERATE

to corrupt or make impure

- ☑ **Syn.** contaminate, pollute
- * **Ant.** cleanse, decontaminate
- ☒ It is a common practice to adulterate milk with water.

ADVANTAGEOUS

favourable, useful

- ☑ **Syn.** beneficial, profitable
- * **Ant.** detrimental, troublesome
- ☒ After Sehwag's brilliant knock of 120 runs, India seems to be at an advantageous position against Australia.

ADVENTITIOUS Adj.

arising or occurring sporadically or in other than usual location

- ☑ **Syn.** casual, accidental
- * **Ant.** inherent, innate
- ☒ The adventitious meeting with her ex-boyfriend rekindled her lost love.

ADVERSE

unfavorable, unlucky, harmful

- ☑ **Syn.** detrimental, pernicious
- * **Ant.** beneficial, favourable
- ☒ They cancelled the baseball game due to adverse weather conditions.

ADVERSARY N.

opponent, hostile rival, enemy

- ☑ **Syn.** challenger, rival
- * **Ant.** supporter, follower, fan, backer
- ☒ It is impossible to fight an unknown adversary.

AEGIS N.

patronage, support, shield, defence

- ☑ **Syn.** auspices, guidance, protection
- ☒ The nuclear power programme was held under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence.

AERATOR, AERATION N.

☑ **Syn.** air, expose, freshen, let breathe

- ☒ All the windows of the house had to be opened for proper aeration.

AERIAL

having to do with the air

- ☑ **Syn.** airborne, in-flight
- * **Ant.** terrestrial, earthly
- ☒ From the plane, we took several aerial pictures of the mountaintop.

AERODYNAMIC

relating to the movement of air and its effects on objects moving through the air

- ☒ We made the paper airplane more aerodynamic by folding the wings at an angle.

AESTHETIC

pertaining to beauty or art

- ☑ **Syn.** graceful, elegant
- * **Ant.** distasteful, unattractive
- ☒ The museum curator, with her fine aesthetic sense, created the perfect lighting for the exhibit.

AFFABLE

friendly, easy to approach

- ☑ **Syn.** genial, jovial
- * **Ant.** aloof, frosty
- ☒ The affable postman was on good terms with everyone on his route.

AFFECT V.

to act on, to influence, to move

- ☑ **Syn.** involve, shape, touch, disturb
- ☒ Economic liberalisation has affected the entire nation.

AFFECTATION N.

an artificial show of manners, haughtiness, pretence, peculiarity

- ☑ **Syn.** habit, way, exaggeration, artifice
- ☒ His affectation invites ridicule from one and all.

AFFINITY

fondness, liking, similarity

- ☑ **Syn.** inclination, empathy
- * **Ant.** dislike, aversion
- ☒ George felt an instant affinity for his new neighbour when he realised that he was another cricket addict.

AFFLICTION N.

the cause of persistent pain or distress; great suffering

- ☑ **Syn.** ordeal, tribulation
- * **Ant.** consolation, solace
- ☒ Many people remember God only in the time of affliction.

AFFLUENT

rich, abundant

- ☑ **Syn.** wealthy, propertied
- * **Ant.** poor, impoverished
- ☒ An affluent woman, Mrs. Shastri was able to give large sums of money to charity.

AFFRONT

personal offence, insult

- ☑ **Syn.** indignity, aspersion
- * **Ant.** compliment, justice
- ☒ Stephen took the waiter's insulting remark as an affront to his whole family.

AFICIONADO N.

an ardent follower, an amateur, a devotee

- ☑ **Syn.** enthusiast, adherent, fanatic
- ☒ Aficionados of chocolates can be found anywhere.

AFTERMATH N.

consequence, result, events following

- ☒ Thousands perished in the aftermath of the drought.

AGAPE Adj.

wide open, open-mouthed

- ☑ **Syn.** astonished, amazed
- ☒ The crowd stared agape as he climbed to the top of the building.

AGENDA

plan, schedule

- ☑ **Syn.** programme, memo
- ☒ The board put the unresolved issue at the top of the agenda for the next meeting.

AGGLOMERATION N.

collection, heap

- ☑ **Syn.** coherence, accumulation
- ☒ The shopkeeper took hours to systematically stack the agglomeration of items in the shop.

AGGRANDISE V. AGGRANDISEMENT N.

collect power/wealth, increase or intensify, raise in power, wealth, rank or honour

- ☑ **Syn.** exaggerate, overdo, enlarge
- ☒ Self-aggrandisement is a common habit of the vain.
- ☒ He always had this ambition to aggrandise his estate.

AGGRAVATE V.

to worsen, to make more grievous, intensify, to exacerbate, burden, irritate

- ☑ **Syn.** worsen, exaggerate, intensify
- * **Ant.** calm, pacify, quiet, appease
- ☒ The infection aggravated the patient's condition.

AGGREGATE

collective mass or sum, total

- ☑ **Syn.** cumulative, sum
- * **Ant.** individual, divided
- ☒ You have to write your aggregate marks in this column.

AGILE

well-coordinated, nimble

- ☑ **Syn.** sprightly, lithe
- * **Ant.** stiff, clumsy
- ☒ The agile monkey swung from the window, snatched the banana and was away in the blink of an eye.

AGOG Adj.

full of intense interest or excitement

- ☑ **Syn.** eager, anxious, keen
- * **Ant.** aloof
- ☒ Teenagers are all agog over new cellphones.

AGHAST Adj.

stupefied with horror, horrified, dumbfounded

- ☑ **Syn.** amazed, shocked, astonished
- ☒ His poor performance and utter lack of concern left his parents aghast.

AGITATE V. AGITATION N.

to stir violently, excite, perturb, disturb

- ☑ **Syn.** trouble, excite, disquiet, rouse
- * **Ant.** calm, tranquil, quiet, still, serene
- ☒ No point getting agitated over the unchangeable.
- ☒ The police firing changed the nature of the peaceful agitation.

AGNOSTIC

one who doubts that God exists

- ☑ **Syn.** disbeliever, doubter
- * **Ant.** believer, worshipper
- ☒ The tragedy shook her faith in God; she proclaimed herself an agnostic.

AGONY N.

affliction, pain

- ☑ **Syn.** suffering, anguish, distress
- * **Ant.** relish, delight, exulting, rejoicing
- ☒ Agony was written large on the face of the victim of the bomb blast.

AGRARIAN

related to farming or rural matters

- ☑ **Syn.** agricultural, bucolic
- * **Ant.** urban, metropolitan
- ☒ She returned to the city as she could not adapt to the agrarian way of living.

AIDE N.

an assistant

- ☒ A Prime Minister's entourage consists of a lot of aides.

AISLE (IL) N.

a passage between rows of seats, pathway

- ☑ **Syn.** passageway, gangway, walkway
- ☒ In the finale, the actors walked down the aisle much to the amusement of the audience.

AJAR Adj., Adv.

partly open, unshut

- ☒ We left the door ajar so we could hear what they were saying.

AKIMBO Adj.

an aggressive standing position with hands on hips and elbows turned outward

- ☑ **Syn.** oblique, crooked, hooked
- ☒ Stand akimbo in front of an Indian policeman and he'll teach you manners.

AKIN Adj.

by kin, affiliated, analogous, alike

- ☑ **Syn.** similar, parallel, like
- ☒ The situation along the tense Indo-Pak border has been akin to war.

ALACRITY

cheerful willingness, eagerness, speed

- ☑ **Syn.** sprightliness, promptitude
- * **Ant.** apathy, clumsiness
- ☒ The playful dog fetched the stick with alacrity.

ALBEIT Conj.

although, even if

- ☑ **Syn.** though, even though, even if
- ☒ We are moving, albeit backwards.

ALBINO N.

a person/animal with abnormally white skin and pink pupils

☑ **Syn.** lightness, fairness, snowiness

Some scientists believe that albino tigers are a separate subspecies altogether.

ALCHEMY N.

a medieval chemical science that aimed to convert base metals into gold, the power or process of transforming something common into something special

☑ **Syn.** conversion, sorcery

☒ She managed, by some extraordinary alchemy, to turn an unhappy family into a happy one almost overnight.

ALEXIA N.

loss of the power to read; word-blindness

☒ The writer survived the accident but, in cruel irony, was to suffer from alexia for the rest of her life.

ALFRESCO Adj.

in the open air, outdoors

☑ **Syn.** outdoor, uncovered, external

* **Ant.** inside, interior, enclosed

☒ Let's eat al fresco this evening - it's so hot inside.

ALGORITHM

mechanical problem-solving procedure

☒ Sara's new computer used algorithms to solve equations.

ALIAS

assumed name

☑ **Syn.** pseudonym, incognito

☒ The criminal who goes by the alias "Big Bad Bobby" was just arrested.

ALIENATE V.

estrangle, set at odds, detach, make hostile, separate

☑ **Syn.** disaffect, set against, distance

* **Ant.** engage, include, contain

☒ All these changes in the newspaper has alienated its traditional readers.

ALIGNED

precisely adjusted, committed to one side

☑ **Syn.** line up, ally

☒ Ruchi always made sure the folds of her saree were perfectly aligned.

ALIMONY N.

the money paid by a man to his wife after their divorce

☑ **Syn.** maintenance, child support

☒ The man accused the woman of cheating him when they were married and argued that he was now too poor to pay alimony.

ALLAY

to lessen, ease, or soothe

☑ **Syn.** alleviate, mollify

* **Ant.** increase, intensify

☒ The nurse tried to allay the couple's fears about their son's health.

ALLEGE V. ALLEGATION N.

to assert as true but without proof,

☑ **Syn.** aver, charge, arraign, impute

* **Ant.** reject, rebuff, contradict, refuse

☒ It is alleged that he was involved in the misappropriation.

☒ The allegations eventually turned out to be baseless and he was set free.

ALLEGIANCE N.

total devotion or faithfulness, loyalty

☑ **Syn.** adherence, fidelity, affiliation

* **Ant.** treachery, subversion, perfidy

☒ The Japanese owe allegiance to nothing but the endless pursuit of excellence.

ALLEGORY

parable, story with a hidden meaning

☑ **Syn.** myth, apologue

* **Ant.** fact, history

☒ The guru used an allegory to explain the spiritual journey to his disciples.

ALLEVIATE V.

to reduce the burden of, to mitigate

☑ **Syn.** relieve, assuage, moderate

* **Ant.** heighten, accentuate

☒ All the charities may fail to alleviate the plight of the poor in the world but some sound economic planning may help.

ALLEY N.

a passage, a narrow lane, a corridor

☑ **Syn.** lane, alleyway, path, pathway

☒ He felt he had entered a blind alley by signing the partnership deed.

ALLIGATOR N.

a large amphibious reptile related to crocodiles

☒ Ancient Egyptians are known to have kept the alligator as a pet.

ALLITERATION

repetition of the initial sounds of words

☒ The alliteration made the poem sound interesting.

ALLOCATION

allowance, portion, share

☑ **Syn.** allotment, quota

* **Ant.** declassification, lumping

☒ The treasurer will be in charge of the allocation of funds during the campaign.

ALLUDE V. ALLUSION N.

to make indirect/subtle references, refer indirectly, to hint at or refer to indirectly, without specific mention

☑ **Syn.** denote, suggest, indicate tacitly

☒ During the boardroom debate the members alluded to the change in the strategy of the company.

ALLURE

to entice by charm, attract

- ☑ **Syn.** appeal, seduce
- * **Ant.** repulsion, revulsion
- ☒ The video arcade owner allured teenage customers by advertising new games.

ALLY N.

partner, friend, associate

- ☑ **Syn.** helper, supporter, assistant
- * **Ant.** opponent, adversary, foe, rival
- ☒ During World War I, Turkey and Germany were allies.

ALMA MATER N.

school or college from where one graduated, fostering mother

- ☒ The vice-chancellor is trying to persuade successful former students to support their poverty-stricken alma mater.

ALMS N.

relief given to the poor out of pity, charity, dole, offering

- ☑ **Syn.** contribution, subscription
- ☒ In the past, people thought it was their religious duty to give alms to the poor.

ALOOF Adv.

reserved, conservative, indifferent, uninterested, apart, cool in manner

- ☑ **Syn.** distant, detached, cold, remote
- * **Ant.** friendly, gracious, responsive
- ☒ You may remain aloof but that will not solve the problem.

ALTAR N.

a table for making sacrifices or religious offerings, table used for communion in churches

- ☒ Many an ambition has died at the altar of social taboo.

ALTERCATION N.

a heated dispute, quarrel, noisy fight, angry dispute, heated dispute

- ☑ **Syn.** brawl, ruckus, melee, fracas
- * **Ant.** safeguarding, defense
- ☒ The debate, which had started peaceably enough, soon turned into an altercation that left bitter feelings behind.

ALTRUISM

unselfish concern for others' welfare

- ☑ **Syn.** compassion, benevolence
- * **Ant.** selfishness, malevolence
- ☒ The woman's generosity showed that altruism was alive even in today's money-minded world.

ALTIMETER N.

an instrument for measuring height (altitude)

- ☒ An altimeter in an aircraft shows height above sea or ground level.

ALUMNA N.

a female graduate of a college or school (plural – alumnae)

- ☒ Mrs. Indira Gandhi was the alumna of Shantiniketan.

ALUMNUS N.

a male graduate of a college (plural – alumni)

- ☒ I am proud to be an alumnus of Imperial College that has produced some of the great leaders of this country.

AMALGAMATE

to mix, combine

- ☑ **Syn.** integrate, incorporate
- * **Ant.** separate, detach
- ☒ ICICI and ICICI Bank were amalgamated to form ICICI Ltd.

AMASS V.

to gather in great quantities, collect

- ☑ **Syn.** heap, pile, rake, hoard
- * **Ant.** dole out, allocate, supply
- ☒ We are steadily amassing a lot of garbage on planet earth.

AMATEUR (AMETUR) N.

an enthusiast or admirer, nonprofessional

- ☑ **Syn.** beginner, dabbler, dilettante
- * **Ant.** professional, specialist, skilled
- ☒ Lawton was an amateur singer until the age of 40, when he turned professional.

AMAZEMENT N. AMAZE V.

astonishment, stupefaction, surprise, wonder, consternation

- ☑ **Syn.** wonder, admiration, shock
- ☒ She stared at the photograph in amazement.
- ☒ Surabhi was amazed at Madhur's proficiency with numbers.

AMAZON N.

a tall, strong masculine woman, female warrior

- ☑ **Syn.** stream, masculine
- ☒ An Amazon is a member of a legendary race of female warriors in Scythia and elsewhere.

AMBIDEXTROUS

able to use both hands equally well

- ☒ The ambidextrous cook was able to chop vegetables with both hands simultaneously.

AMBIENT Adj. AMBIENCE N.

surrounding

- ☑ **Syn.** encompassing, enveloping
- ☒ I love dining in the Taj because of its ambience.

AMBIGUOUS

uncertain, subject to multiple interpretations

- ☑ **Syn.** ambivalent, enigmatic
- * **Ant.** unambiguous, clear
- ☒ His directions were so ambiguous that we were soon lost.

AMBIVALENCE

attitude of uncertainty, conflicting emotions

- ☑ **Syn.** equivocation, indecision
- * **Ant.** certainty, decisiveness
- ☒ The government's ambivalence over the dam is posing a threat to the environment.

AMBLE N., V.

an easy gait, a leisurely walk

☑ **Syn.** saunter, linger, drift

☒ Even in her amble, she looks intelligent.

AMBROSIA N.

food of the Greek gods that provided immortal youth and beauty, anything sweet and pleasing

☑ **Syn.** delicacy, nectar, perfume

☒ The chocolate mousse she makes is sheer ambrosia.

AMBULATORY Adj.

able to walk, not bedridden

☑ **Syn.** mobile, able to move around

☒ The recovery took long but finally the patient was happy to be ambulatory.

AMBUSH N.,V.

lying in wait to finally attack by surprise

☑ **Syn.** hold-up, stake-out, trap, raid, storm

☒ Thousands of American soldiers were ambushed by guerillas in the Vietnam war.

☒ Several innocent passengers were killed in the ambush.

AMELIORATE

to make better, improve

☑ **Syn.** rectify, mend

* **Ant.** worsen, leave something untended

☒ The new nurses helped to ameliorate the conditions in the hospital.

AMENABLE

agreeable, cooperative

☑ **Syn.** compliant, acquiescent

* **Ant.** uncooperative, wild

☒ The new director seemed rigid, but was amenable to changes in the interest of the film.

AMEND

to improve or correct flaws in

☑ **Syn.** modify, correct

☒ The government should amend the tax law.

AMENITIES N.

convenient features, courtesies

☑ **Syn.** facilities, services

☒ They have all amenities for the business traveller in the hotel's business centre.

AMENITY

pleasantness, something that increases comfort

☑ **Syn.** convenience, advantage

* **Ant.** inconvenience, unpleasantness

☒ The kidnap victim was happy to regain access to the amenities of civilised society after spending several months in the jungle.

AMIALE

friendly, pleasant, likable

☑ **Syn.** affable, agreeable

* **Ant.** unfriendly, disagreeable

☒ The new boss was an amiable young man with a smile for everyone.

AMICABLE

friendly, agreeable

☑ **Syn.** amiable, likable

* **Ant.** unfriendly, disagreeable

☒ The wise old man persuaded the adversaries to arrive at an amicable settlement, ending years of dispute.

AMITY

friendship

☑ **Syn.** accord, concord

* **Ant.** animosity, enmity

☒ Correspondence over the years contributed to the lasting amity between the women.

AMNESIA N.

loss of memory (amnesiac – one who suffers from amnesia)

☑ **Syn.** forgetfulness

☒ Every time I request for repayment of loan, he feigns amnesia.

AMNESTY N.

a general pardon, a period during which offenders are exempted from punishment

☑ **Syn.** exoneration, reprieve, respite

* **Ant.** punishment, imprisonment

☒ On Independence Day many prisoners are granted amnesty.

AMOK, AMUCK Adv.

in a violently raging manner

☒ In the movie, a deadly virus runs amok and threatens the survival of mankind.

AMORAL

unprincipled, unethical

☑ **Syn.** unscrupulous, without standard

* **Ant.** principled, moral

☒ The preacher was very agitated about the amoral nature of modern values.

AMOROUS

strongly attracted to love; showing love

☑ **Syn.** amatory, ardent

* **Ant.** unloving, cold

☒ The poet wrote many amorous poems about his love.

AMORPHOUS

having no definite form

☑ **Syn.** formless, structureless

* **Ant.** shaped, definite

☒ Flubber was an amorphous cartoon character that looked like a bouncing blob of jelly.

AMORTISE V. AMORTISATION N.

to reduce debt by paying small regular amounts

- ☒ The borrower pleaded with the bank for more time to amortise the loan.

AMPHIBIAN

creature equally at home on land or in water

- ☒ The frog is the most common amphibian.

AMPLE

abundant, plentiful

- ☒ **Syn.** enough, sufficient
- * **Ant.** insufficient, meagre
- ☒ Though our backpacks were small, we carried ample food for the hike.

AMPLIFY

increase, intensify

- ☒ **Syn.** louden, magnify
- * **Ant.** reduce, quieten
- ☒ We will need to amplify the music at the wedding so that everyone can dance.

AMPHITHEATRE N.

an oval or circular building with rising tiers of seats arranged about an open space

- ☒ **Syn.** stadium, arena
- ☒ Scores of spectators gathered in the amphitheatre to watch the unarmed prisoners fighting a lion.

AMPUTATE V. AMPUTATION N.

- ☒ **Syn.** cut off, remove, sever, separate
- ☒ Amputation of the arm is the only medical option, otherwise the infection will spread.
- ☒ He was forced to amputate the less profitable activities to ensure the survival of the company.

AMULET

ornament worn as a charm against evil spirits

- ☒ Laxmi claimed she was not superstitious, but always wore an amulet around her neck.

ANACHRONISM N. ANACHRONISTIC Adj.

out of the present time or age, something or someone misplaced in time, a thing out of place in time, thus a chronological error

- ☒ **Syn.** relic, survival, leftover, holdover
- ☒ "Simple living and high thinking" is an anachronism in today's public life.

ANACONDA N.

a large South American water snake

- ☒ It's a miracle sighting an Anaconda in Asia.

ANAGRAM N.

A word made by rearranging letters of another word

- ☒ **Syn.** wordplay, paronomasia
Mood – Doom, Stool – Tools etc.
- ☒ Silence is an anagram of license.

ANALOGOUS

comparable, parallel

- ☒ **Syn.** corresponding, equivalent
- * **Ant.** dissimilar, unrelated
- ☒ Some say the universe is analogous to a mechanical watch, created by the divine watchmaker.

ANARCHY

absence of government or law, chaos

- ☒ **Syn.** mobocracy, disorder
- * **Ant.** rule of law, order
- ☒ Some believe that without a strong police force to keep society in order, anarchy would soon prevail.

ANATHEMA

ban, curse, something shunned or disliked

- ☒ **Syn.** abhorrent, abomination
- * **Ant.** benediction, blessing
- ☒ The soldier, with his sweaty, soiled clothing was anathema to the elegant princess.

ANCILLARY

accessory, subordinate

- ☒ **Syn.** accompanying, additional
- * **Ant.** main, prime
- ☒ As reforms were only instituted at the main factory, and not at the ancillary plants, defects continued to occur.

ANCHOR N., V.

a device to stabilise a structure, a reliable, principal support, secure or fasten firmly,

- ☒ **Syn.** attach, newscaster, presenter
- * **Ant.** unfasten, undo, disengage
- ☒ He was my anchor during adverse times.
- ☒ A huge ship is anchored off the coast of Vishakhapatnam.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. antithesis | a. mysterious |
| 2. apathy | b. direct opposite |
| 3. aphorism | c. lack of interest |
| 4. arbitrary | d. witty saying |
| 5. arcane | e. random |

1.(b) 2.(c) 3.(d) 4.(e) 5.(a)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

ANDROID N.

machine in the form of human being

- ☞ Kids are usually fascinated by androids and cyborgs.

ANECDOTE N.

a short story of an interesting incident, short account of an amusing or interesting event

- ☑ **Syn.** story, tale, yarn, sketch
- ☞ He regaled the audience with lively anecdotes.

ANGUISH N., V.

excessive pain of body and mind, agony, acute pain, extreme suffering

- ☑ **Syn.** affliction, dolour, bale, torment
- * **Ant.** satisfied, contented, pleased
- ☞ His anguish at the outcome of the court case was very clear.

ANGULAR

characterised by sharp angles, lean and gaunt

- ☑ **Syn.** pointed, sharp-cornered
- * **Ant.** plump, rounded
- ☞ Her angular frame contrasted sharply with that of her overweight companion.

ANIMADVERSION N.

a critical and usually censorious remark; adverse criticism

- ☑ **Syn.** obloquy, aspersion
- * **Ant.** commendation, laudation
- ☞ He was neutral to animadversions and applause.

ANIMATION

enthusiasm, excitement

- ☑ **Syn.** vivacity, liveliness
- * **Ant.** sluggishness, lethargy
- ☞ Bobby spoke with animation about his wonderful, exciting trip to London.

ANIMOSITY

hatred, hostility

- ☑ **Syn.** acrimony, antagonism
- * **Ant.** affection, friendship
- ☞ The deep-rooted animosity between them made it difficult for the cousins to work together.

ANNALS N.

record of events in a yearwise fashion

- ☑ **Syn.** archives, chronicles, history
- ☞ In the annals of cricket, Kapil's name will be written in gold.

ANNEAL V.

strengthen; *esp.glass* temper by subjecting to great heat and slow cooling

- ☞ The windscreens of cars are usually made of annealed glass.

ANNIHILATE V. ANNIHILATION N.

to reduce to zero, destroy completely, exterminate, to wipe out, to vanquish, abolish

- ☑ **Syn.** abrogate, obliterate, liquidate
- * **Ant.** regenerate, retrieve
- ☞ If humans continue to destroy natural habitats, more and more animal species will be annihilated.

ANOINT V.

to apply oil to as a sacred rite especially for consecration

- ☞ King Ashoka anointed Mahendra as the king of Awadh.

ANNOTATE V.

to provide explanatory notes on a main issue/topic, elucidate, revise, edit, comment, make explanatory notes

- ☑ **Syn.** gloss, interpret, comment on
- ☞ The record company has annotated its new compilation of Beatles songs, describing how each recording was made.

ANNUITY N.

a regular payment due each year, yearly allowance

- ☑ **Syn.** pension, allowance, income
- ☞ Irregular annuity payments defeat the very purpose.

ANNUL

to cancel, or make legally invalid

- ☑ **Syn.** nullify, declare void
- * **Ant.** restore, reinstate
- ☞ The couple asked the court to annul their marriage, as they found it difficult to get along.

ANOMALY

irregularity or deviation from the norm

- ☑ **Syn.** aberration, exception
- * **Ant.** regularity, norm
- ☞ There are a number of anomalies in the present system.

ANONYMITY

condition of having no name or an unknown name

- ☞ After abandoning her movie career, Greta Garbo retreated into relative anonymity.

ANONYMOUS Adj. ANONYMITY N.

unattested, uncredited, unidentified, unnamed

- ☑ **Syn.** unidentified, unspecified, secret
- * **Ant.** characteristic, individual, unique
- ☞ The anonymous letter could not be traced.
- ☞ For reasons of personal safety, the informant requested anonymity.

ANTAGONISM N. ANTAGONISTIC Adj.

hostility, active resistance

- ☑ **Syn.** rivalry, opposition, aggression
- * **Ant.** collaboration, assistance, help
- ☞ The underlying antagonism between the two men doesn't exactly encourage party unity.

ANTECEDENT Adj.

before in time; prior

- ☑ **Syn.** preceding, previous
- * **Ant.** consequent, subsequent
- ☒ The antecedent to this novel arouses reader's interest.

ANTEDILUVIAN Adj.

antiquated, ancient

- ☑ **Syn.** ancient, very old, primitive
- * **Ant.** modern, current, recent, fresh
- ☒ Their production techniques are positively antediluvian by modern standards.

ANTENATAL Adj.

before birth

- ☒ Every pregnant lady has to go to a gynaecologist for an antenatal check-up.

ANTHOLOGY N.

book of literary selections by various authors

- ☑ **Syn.** compilation, album, omnibus
- ☒ This Bob Dylan anthology includes some rare recordings of his best songs.

ANTHROPOID N.

manlike

- ☑ **Syn.** manlike, humanoid
- ☒ Monkeys, gorillas and chimpanzees are anthropoids.

ANTHROPOLOGIST N.

an expert in anthropology - a science of history and study of mankind.

- ☒ An anthropologist has to be an innate archaeologist if not a professional one.

ANTHROPOMORPHIC Adj.

having human form or characteristics

- ☑ **Syn.** manlike, theistic
- ☒ Anthropomorphic features can never be avoided from the images of gods, goddesses and deities.

ANTICLIMAX N.

a sudden drop in impressiveness after a steady rise, letdown in thought or emotion

- ☑ **Syn.** comedown, disappointment
- * **Ant.** climax, pinnacle, height
- ☒ Coming home after a trip somewhere is always a bit of an anticlimax.

ANTIDOTE N.

anything that prevents an evil or counteracts poison, remedy to counteract a poison or disease

- ☑ **Syn.** cure, remedy, solution, answer
- * **Ant.** poison, fatal, poisonous
- ☒ Sales of nerve gas antidotes increased dramatically before the war.

ANTI-SEMITISM N.

the philosophy of hating the Jews

- ☒ Anti-semitism raises its ugly head every now and then.

ANTIPATHY

dislike, hostility, extreme opposition or aversion

- ☑ **Syn.** abhorrence, antagonism
- * **Ant.** empathy, sympathy
- ☒ The antipathy between the French and the English regularly erupted into open warfare.

ANTIQUATED

outdated, obsolete

- ☑ **Syn.** bygone, outmoded
- * **Ant.** contemporary, modern
- ☒ The old man's antiquated typewriter finally lost out to the modern computer.

ANTIQUITY

ancient times, the quality of being old

- ☑ **Syn.** ancientness, archaism
- * **Ant.** modernity, trendy
- ☒ It was obviously a castle of great antiquity, unchanged since the Middle Ages.

ANTITHESIS

exact opposite or direct contrast

- ☑ **Syn.** contradictory, contrariety
- * **Ant.** resemblance, similarity
- ☒ The ill-mannered boy was often described as the antithesis of his sweet sister.

ANVIL N.

iron block used in hammering out metals.

- ☒ Hammering of metal sheets on the anvil is necessary to make things, howsoever noisy the process may be.

APARTHEID N.

segregation and separate development of races

- ☑ **Syn.** segregation, prejudice
- ☒ Apartheid is alive and kicking, only its forms are more subtle now.

APATHY

lack of feeling or emotion

- ☑ **Syn.** indifference, unconcern
- * **Ant.** interest, enthusiasm
- ☒ The apathy of voters is so great that less than half the number of people eligible to vote bother to do so.

APE V., N.

imitate or mimic; monkey

- ☑ **Syn.** copy, reproduce, simulate
- ☒ No disciple of Pannalal Ghosh, the flautist, could even ape him.
- ☒ The apes from the nearby forest are causing a nuisance in the village.

APERTURE N.

opening, cleft, crack, fissure, gap, inlet, hole

- ☑ **Syn.** opening, space, orifice, crack
- ☒ Light entered the cave through a small aperture in the rock.

APHASIA N. **APHASIC** Adj.

loss of speech due to injury or illness

- ☑ **Syn.** speech abnormality
- ☒ Due to injuries on the face and the jaw he suffered from aphasia for a very long time.
- ☒ The girl was aphasic because of brain damage suffered during a difficult birth.

APHORISM

old saying or short, pithy statement

- ☑ **Syn.** maxim, axiom
- * **Ant.** nonsense, paradox
- ☒ The country doctor was given to aphorisms such as "Still waters run deep".

APHRODISIAC N.

sexual stimulant

- ☑ **Syn.** erotic, amative
- ☒ Thousands of rhinos have been mercilessly killed for their horn which, as is wrongly believed, acts as an aphrodisiac.

APLOMB (*EPLOM*) N.

coolness, self-confidence, poise

- ☑ **Syn.** assurance, cool, style
- * **Ant.** awkwardness, inelegance
- ☒ He delivered the speech with aplomb.

APOCALYPTIC Adj. **APOCALYPSE** N.

pertaining to the end of the world, prophetic

- ☑ **Syn.** revelatory, scriptural
- ☒ The apocalyptic prophecies failed to create a stir.

APOCRYPHAL Adj.

of doubtful origin, dubious, spurious, not genuine, untrue, made up

- ☑ **Syn.** mythical, legendry, invented
- * **Ant.** true, accurate, right, exact
- ☒ The story is probably apocryphal but sounds credible.

APOGEE N.

the point where a celestial body is farthest from earth, acme, apex, highest point

- ☑ **Syn.** summit, pinnacle, zenith, peak
- * **Ant.** base, bottom, foot, pedestal, perigee
- ☒ To set the satellite at the right apogee is the most important aspect of satellite launching.

APOSTATE N.

one who abandons his religious faith or political beliefs, who renounces a faith or a commitment to a previous loyalty

- ☑ **Syn.** traitor, fugitive, renegade
- ☒ Having lost a great deal of weight on the diet, Ashok became an apostate of his old, unhealthy habits.

APOSTLE N.

an early supporter of a cause; promoter, revivalist

- ☑ **Syn.** evangelist, missionary, advocate
- * **Ant.** critic, enemy, attacker, heckler
- ☒ The apostle of peace and nonviolence was revered by many.

APOTHECARY N.

a druggist or a pharmacist

- ☒ Many apothecaries indulged in alchemy in ancient times.

APOTHEOSIS N.

deification, glorification, elevation to godhood, an ideal example of something

- ☑ **Syn.** ideal, resurrection, idolisation
- ☒ In states like Bihar and Tamil Nadu, the apotheosis of a political leader is common.

APPALLING Adj. **APPALL** V.

awful, dire, disheartening, dreadful, causing fear, disgust, horror

- ☑ **Syn.** terrible, horrifying, shocking
- * **Ant.** magnificent, superb, amazing
- ☒ Seeing the appalling conditions of the slum-dwellers, the social worker was tearful.
- ☒ She was appalled on listening to the story of his struggles.

APPARITION N.

visual appearance of a ghost/phantom, a marvel or wonder

- ☑ **Syn.** spirit, spectre, phantom, ghoul
- ☒ He claims to have seen strange apparitions at night.

APPEASE

to satisfy, calm

- ☑ **Syn.** pacify, placate
- * **Ant.** infuriate, enrage
- ☒ We all sang lullabies to try and appease the bawling infant.

APPLAUSE N. **APPLAUD** V.

acclaim, cheering, clapping (v. applaud)

- ☑ **Syn.** commendations, kudos, plaudits
- * **Ant.** jeering, mocking, taunts, scoffs
- ☒ The Secretary General deserves applause for his efforts to bring about peace.

APPOSITE Adj.

appropriate, fitting

- ☑ **Syn.** apt, pertinent, relevant, suitable
- ☒ The film starts in a graveyard, an apposite image for the decaying society which is the theme of the film.

APPRAISAL N. **APPRAISE** V.

the process of judging the value/worth of something

- ☑ **Syn.** assessment, evaluation
- ☒ Rajendra was anxious about the outcome of his annual appraisal.
- ☒ He coolly appraised the situation, deciding which person was most likely to succeed.

APPREHEND V.

to arrest, lay hold of, capture; to recognise, to consider, dread, perceive

- ☑ **Syn.** detain, arrest, capture, pick up
- ☒ The CBI has apprehended almost every worthwhile politician at some point of time!

APPREHENSION N. APPREHENSIVE Adj.

fear of something, worry, anxiety, suspicion

- ☑ **Syn.** uneasiness, worry, trepidation
- * **Ant.** poise, assurance, self confidence
- ☒ The elderly couple viewed winter's approach with apprehension, dreading the ice storms and snow-covered streets.
- ☒ The crowd was apprehensive about the filmstar's condition, after he was admitted to a hospital.

APPRISE V.

to inform, advise, notify, to tell

- ☑ **Syn.** tell, describe, impart, acquaint
- ☒ The President has been apprised of the situation in the state by the governor.

APPROBATION N. APPROBATE V.

approval

- ☑ **Syn.** consent, esteem, good opinion
- * **Ant.** condemnation, displeasure
- ☒ He had worked long and hard on the project and, when his efforts succeeded, the committee never gave him so much as a word of approbation.

AQUATIC

belonging to or living in water

- ☑ **Syn.** marine, maritime
- * **Ant.** land, terrestrial
- ☒ The heaviest aquatic creature, the whale, dwarfs the largest land animals, as its weight is supported by water.

AQUILINE Adj.

like an eagle, bent, hooked, curved

- ☑ **Syn.** hooked, curved, an aquiline nose, aquiline features
- ☒ The statue of Adonis has an aquiline nose.

ARABLE

suitable for cultivation

- ☑ **Syn.** generative, fruitful
- * **Ant.** infertile, barren
- ☒ The overpopulated country desperately needed more arable land to grow food for its starving people.

ARBITRARY

depending solely on individual will, inconsistent

- ☑ **Syn.** peremptory, autocratic
- * **Ant.** democratic, rational
- ☒ To everyone's surprise, Nutan was given the prize, making the judges' decision appear completely arbitrary.

ARBITER N. ARBITRATE V.

ARBITRATION N. ARBITRABLE Adj.

judge, person with final decision power

- ☑ **Syn.** referee, mediator, moderator
- ☒ The arbiter's decision will be binding on all parties to the dispute.
- ☒ The issue of ownership has become arbitrable and will now be contested in the court.

ARCADE N.

a row of arches – open or closed, a covered passageway

- ☑ **Syn.** mall, shopping arcade
- ☒ The crowds are thronging the latest shopping arcades in Gurgaon.

ARCANE

secret, obscure, known only to a few

- ☑ **Syn.** mysterious, esoteric
- * **Ant.** common, familiar
- ☒ The arcane rituals of the sect were passed down through many generations.

ARCH Adj.

principal, chief, roguish

- ☒ Real Madrid beat their arch rivals AC Milan 2-0 to lift the Euro cup.

ARCHAIC

antiquated, from an earlier time, outdated

- ☑ **Syn.** dated, old-fashioned
- * **Ant.** modern, updated
- ☒ Her archaic computer could not run the new software.

ARCHAEOLOGY N.

scientific study of human antiquities by excavations, study of artifacts and relics of early mankind

- ☒ Many ancient civilisations could be unearthed because of man's advancement in the field of archaeology.

ARCHETYPE N.

the original model, prototype, ideal form

- ☑ **Syn.** epitome, standard, classic
- ☒ Carl G. Jung tried to explain human behaviour in terms of "archetypal patterns" inherited through the generations of collective human experience.

ARCHIVES N.

a repository of public records/monuments, etc.

- ☑ **Syn.** documents, annals, collection
- ☒ I've been studying village records in the local archives.

ARCHIPELAGO

large group of islands

- ☒ Boat taxis are the only form of transportation between villages in the Stockholm archipelago.

ARDENT

passionate, enthusiastic, fervent

- ☑ **Syn.** fervid, impassioned
- * **Ant.** unenthusiastic, dispassionate
- ☒ After the last defeat, even the most ardent fans have given up any hope of winning the cup.

ARDUOUS

extremely difficult, laborious

- ☑ **Syn.** onerous, taxing
- * **Ant.** easy, effortless
- ☒ The climb was so arduous that Anita doubted if she would make it to the peak.

ARENA N.

any sphere of action, any place of public contest

- ☑ **Syn.** stadium, ground, pitch, dome
- ☒ We were surprised to see a new candidate enter the arena just before the election.

ARID

extremely dry or deathly boring

- ☑ **Syn.** parched, monotonous
- * **Ant.** scintillating, humid
- ☒ The arid farmland produced no crops.

ARGOT N.

an often more or less secret vocabulary and idiom peculiar to a particular group

- ☑ **Syn.** jargon, slang, dialect
- ☒ In the argot of the college campus the whole issue was a "bogey".

ARMADA N.

a fleet of armed ships

- ☑ **Syn.** fleet, flotilla, navy, squadron
- ☒ The Spanish Armada was sent by King of Spain to invade England in 1588.

ARMAGEDDON N.

time or place of great war between forces of good and evil.

- ☑ **Syn.** World War
- ☒ He said that unless people in western societies change the way in which they live, the world was heading for an environmental Armageddon.

ARMOURY N. a storehouse of arms and ammunitions

- ☒ The bandits gained access to the armoury after killing the guards and helped themselves to more arms.

AROMA N. AROMATIC Adj.

bouquet, fragrance, perfume, scent, flavour, charm

- ☑ **Syn.** smell, odour, whiff
- ☒ The aroma of good food makes one's mouth water.

AROUSE V. AROUSAL N.

to awaken from sleep

- ☑ **Syn.** provoke, awaken, whet
- * **Ant.** calm, quiet
- ☒ Shrewd politicians were arousing communal passions by delivering fiery speeches.

ARRAIGN V.

to publicly accuse, to put to trial, impeach, incriminate, indict, charge in court

- ☑ **Syn.** charge, prosecute, have up
- ☒ He was arraigned on charges of aiding and abetting terrorists.

ARRANT Adj.

downright, utter, thorough

- ☑ **Syn.** complete, total, unmitigated
- ☒ He was an arrant fool.

ARROGATE

to demand, claim arrogantly

- ☑ **Syn.** badger, infringe
- * **Ant.** grant, offer
- ☒ Mary watched in astonishment as her boss arrogated all the credit for Mary's brilliant work.

ARSENAL

ammunition storehouse

- ☑ **Syn.** ordnance depot, armoury
- ☒ The soldiers ran for cover as the fire reached the arsenal.

ARSON N. ARSONIST N.

crime of burning properties

- ☑ **Syn.** incendiarism, firebug
- ☒ "Shoot the arsonists!", shouted the general.
- ☒ Police suspect arson as the cause of the cinema fire.

ARTICULATE (adj.) – eloquent, fluent

(v) – express, give voice to

- ☑ **Syn.** eloquent, cogent, assert
- * **Ant.** inarticulate, dumb
- ☒ She is such an articulate defender of labour that unions are among her strongest supporters.

ARTIFACT

historical relic, item made by human craft, fabrication

- ☒ The archaeologist discovered hundreds of interesting artifacts in the ruins of the mansion.

ARTIFICE N.

skill, trickery, contrivance, ingenuity

- ☑ **Syn.** pretence, ploy, deception, lie
- ☒ His remorse is just an artifice to gain sympathy.

ARTILLERY N.

offensive weapons of war

- ☑ **Syn.** arms, guns, armaments, missiles
- ☒ Naval gunfire and ground-based artillery are generally less accurate than many aircraft-borne weapons.

ARTISAN

craftsperson, wright

- ☑ **Syn.** craftsman, maker, smith
- * **Ant.** novice, amateur
- ☒ Artisans were among the most valued citizens of the kingdom for their skills in tool-making.

ARTLESS Adj.

without guile; free from artificiality, uncultured

- ☑ **Syn.** simple, natural, open, sincere
- * **Ant.** craftiness, wiliness, clever
- ☒ The artless comments of an innocent child has two elements: surprise and curiosity

ASCEND

to rise or climb

- ☑ **Syn.** mount, soar
- * **Ant.** descend, decline
- ☒ As the old man ascended the stairs, he panted heavily.

ASCENDANCY

state of rising, ascending, power or control

- ☑ **Syn.** authority, predomination
- * **Ant.** compliance, servility
- ☒ The devious politician's ascendancy to the top ranks of government seemed inevitable.

ASCERTAIN

to determine, discover, make certain of

- ☑ **Syn.** verify, discern
- * **Ant.** invalidate, doubt
- ☒ Try as he might, the archaeologist could not ascertain the correct age of the skeleton.

ASCETIC

self-denying, abstinent, austere

- ☑ **Syn.** restrained, stringent
- * **Ant.** self-indulgent, hedonistic
- ☒ The monk lived an ascetic life, deep in the wilderness, denying himself all forms of comfort.

ASCRIBE V. **ASCRPTION** N.

to assign, impute, attribute

- ☑ **Syn.** credit, attribute, blame on
- ☒ Though he ascribes his success to hard work his rivals ascribe it to lady luck.

ASININE Adj. **ASININITY** N.

of or like an ass / donkey

- ☑ **Syn.** silly, stupid, foolish, idiotic, dim
- * **Ant.** clever, bright, intelligent, smart
- ☒ An asinine approach to economic reforms cannot possibly encourage growth.

ASKEW

crooked, tilted

- ☑ **Syn.** slanted, off-balance
- * **Ant.** straight, symmetrical
- ☒ I was so late for work that I rushed out of the house with my hair uncombed and my hat askew.

ASPERSION N. **ASPERSE** V.

slander, calumny, false and damaging remark, defamation

- ☑ **Syn.** slur, derision, disdain, verbal jab
- ☒ How easy it is to cast aspersions on another's character!

ASPIRE

to have great hopes, to aim at a goal

- ☑ ☑ **Syn.** desire, crave
- ☒ Siddhartha had started out in the mailroom, but he aspired to become the CEO some day.

ASSASSINATION N. **ASSASSINATE** V.

homicide, killing, murder, slaughter

- ☑ **Syn.** shooting, elimination
- ☒ Following the military coup, it was feared that the president would be assassinated.

ASSENT N., V.

acceptance, concurrence, accord

- ☑ **Syn.** consent, nod, approval
- * **Ant.** disagree, differ, oppose, diverge
- ☒ All we need is the assent of the boss for the plan.
- ☒ Astha assented to the proposal to merge her company with mine.

ASSERTIVE Adj. **ASSERT** V. **ASSERTION** N.

dogmatic, emphatic, firm, forceful, pushy

- ☑ **Syn.** self-confident, firm, forward
- * **Ant.** timid, nervous, shy, fearful, coy
- ☒ An assertive leadership has several merits.
- ☒ Assert yourself in front of the panel; otherwise they'll reject you.

ASSESS V. **ASSESSMENT** N.

appraise, estimate, evaluate, gauge, determine, diagnose

- ☑ **Syn.** tax, charge, consider, calculate
- ☒ Let's assess the loss.
- ☒ A chartered accountant prepares an assessment of your tax liabilities.

ASSIDUOUS

diligent, persistent, hard-working

- ☑ **Syn.** persevering, painstaking
- * **Ant.** complacent, lazy
- ☒ The chauffeur scrubbed the car assiduously, hoping to make a good impression on his employer.

ASSIMILATION

act of blending in, becoming similar

- ☑ **Syn.** absorption, incorporation
- * **Ant.** dissimilation, separation
- ☒ Language classes were offered to help the assimilation of the immigrants with the natives.

ASSORTED Adj. **ASSORTMENT** N.

diverse, mixed, sundry, various, miscellaneous, motley

- ☑ **Syn.** mixed, various, varied
- ☒ The students come from assorted backgrounds.
- ☒ The assortment of chocolates in this gift pack looks tempting.

ASSUAGE

to make less severe, ease, relieve

- ☑ **Syn.** alleviate, soothe
- * **Ant.** aggravate, intensify
- ☒ Like many people, Prem used alcohol to assuage his sense of despair.

ASTEROID N.

small celestial body

- ☒ Thanks to science fiction, many of us are familiar with asteroids.

ASTONISH V. **ASTONISHMENT** N.

to surprise tremendously, to amaze

- ☑ **Syn.** astound, bowl over, dumbfound
- ☒ I was astonished by the news of the divorce; they'd seemed so happy together.
- ☒ To the utter astonishment of her parents, the princess married a commoner.

ASTRAY Adv.

out of the right way, in a lost state

- ☑ **Syn.** off course, off track, off target
- * **Ant.** on target, on track
- ☒ The youth of India have gone astray, lamented the old soldier.

ASTRIDE Adv.

in a striding position

- ☑ **Syn.** spanning, across
- ☒ Astride his new bike, Madhur strutted about the lanes of Delhi University.

ASTRINGENT

harsh, severe, stern

- ☑ **Syn.** austere, stinging
- * **Ant.** gentle, balmy
- ☒ The principal's punishments seemed overly astringent, but the students did not dare to complain.

ASTUTE

having good judgment

- ☑ **Syn.** insightful, ingenious
- * **Ant.** stupid
- ☒ The astute Kumarmangalam Birla took his business empire to new heights.

ASYMMETRICAL

not corresponding in size, shape, position, etc.

- ☑ **Syn.** disproportionate, skewed
- * **Ant.** well-proportioned, symmetrical
- ☒ The customer was shocked to find that the new stylist had left her hair asymmetrical.

ASYLUM N.

any place of refuge or protection

- ☑ **Syn.** retreat, sanctuary, shelter
- ☒ Stalin's daughter had sought political asylum in the US.

ATHEIST N. **ATHEISM** N.

sceptic, unbeliever, heathen, infidel

- ☒ Contrary to public notion, Einstein was not an atheist.

ATONE

to make amends for a wrong

- ☑ **Syn.** redress, recompense
- ☒ Many people go to church to atone for their sins and seek forgiveness.

ATROPHY

to waste away, wither from disuse

- ☑ **Syn.** degenerate, shrivel up
- * **Ant.** flourish, strengthen
- ☒ When Mini stopped exercising after the accident, her muscles began to atrophy.

ATROCITY N. **ATROCIOUS** Adj.

brutality, persecution, savagery

- ☑ **Syn.** cruelty, monstrosity
- * **Ant.** geniality, benignity, indulgence
- ☒ The atrocities still suffered by Indian women and children make a mockery of our tall talk.

ATTAIN

to accomplish, gain

- ☑ **Syn.** achieve, bring to fruition
- ☒ It is clear that Clark's hard work will help him attain the position he's been hoping for.

ATTENUATE V. **ATTENUATION** N.

to make thin or lean, to reduce in value or strength

- ☑ **Syn.** weaken, lighten, mitigate
- * **Ant.** intensify, exaggerate, deepen
- ☒ The exit of Gorbachev has considerably attenuated the Russian political scene.

ATTEST

to testify, stand as proof of, bear witness

- ☑ **Syn.** confirm, verify
- * **Ant.** disprove, deny
- ☒ A string of low scores attested to the batsman's poor form.

ATTIC N.

a small room in the roof of a house

- ☑ **Syn.** loft, top storey, upper floor
- ☒ I've got boxes of old clothes in the attic, which I really should throw away.

ATTIRE V., N.

to dress, accoutre, clad

- ☑ **Syn.** clothing, dress, clothes, outfit
- ☒ I feel comfortable attired in casuals.
- ☒ I hardly think jeans are appropriate attire for a wedding.

ATTRIBUTE N., V.

essential quality, ascribe

- ☑ **Syn.** characteristic, trait, feature
- ☒ Earlier a sceptre was used as an attribute of power.
- ☒ The plane crash has been attributed to pilot's negligence.

ATTRITION N.

a gradual weakening or wearing down; a reduction in the number of employees as a result of resignations

- ☑ **Syn.** erosion, slow destruction
- ☒ Feminists are struggling to stop the attrition of women's rights in the country.
- ☒ The BPO industry is plagued by high attrition rates.

AUDACIOUS

bold, daring, fearless

- ☑ **Syn.** courageous, plucky
- * **Ant.** timid, unenterprising
- ☒ The peasant was audacious enough to stand up and speak against the king in public.

AUDIBLE

capable of being heard

- ☑ **Syn.** discernible, perceptible
- * **Ant.** inaudible, faint
- ☒ The shy boy's voice was barely audible as he answered the teacher's questions.

AUGMENT

to expand, extend

- ☑ **Syn.** heighten, elevate
- * **Ant.** decrease, abate
- ☒ Balraj augmented his salary by doing extra jobs after office.

AUGUR, AUGURY N., V.

a person who predicts the future, prophet, seer, visionary

- ☑ **Syn.** bode, promise, portend, foretell
- ☒ The dark clouds augur a thunderstorm.

AUGUST

dignified, awe-inspiring, venerable

- ☑ **Syn.** prestigious, esteemed
- * **Ant.** unimpressive, unimposing
- ☒ The august view of the summit of Everest filled the climbers with awe.

AURA N.

a supposed subtle emanation from all living things, distinct character

- ☑ **Syn.** ambience, atmosphere, air
- ☒ There is an aura of mystery about Mona-Lisa's smile.
- ☒ There's an aura of sadness about him.

AURAL Adj.

pertaining to the ear

- ☑ **Syn.** auditory, hearing, acoustic
- ☒ The reckless noise will damage my aural senses.

AUSPICES N.

sponsorship or patronage

- ☑ **Syn.** support, endorsement
- ☒ The function was held under the auspices of the charity club.

AUSPICIOUS

having favourable prospects, promising

- ☑ **Syn.** propitious, encouraging
- * **Ant.** inopportune, inauspicious
- ☒ Tripti thought that winning the appreciation of the boss marked an auspicious start to her new job.

AUSTERE

stern, strict, unadorned

- ☑ **Syn.** serious, unyielding
- * **Ant.** flexible, fancy
- ☒ The lack of decoration makes Zen temples seem austere to the untrained eye.

AUTHORITARIAN

extremely strict, bossy

- ☑ **Syn.** overbearing, totalitarian
- * **Ant.** lenient, liberal
- ☒ The authoritarian manager alienated his subordinates with his overbearing attitude.

AUTOCRACY N.

an absolute government by one person, i.e. the autocrat, dictatorship, tyranny

- ☑ **Syn.** dictatorship, monarchy
- * **Ant.** democracy, social equality
- ☒ The autocracy of Louis XVI led to the French Revolution.
- ☒ The victory against autocracy was won after years of struggle.

AUTOCRAT

dictator

- ☑ **Syn.** despot, tyrant
- * **Ant.** tolerant, democrat
- ☒ Mussolini has been described as an autocrat who did not tolerate opposition.

AUTONOMOUS

separate, independent

- ☑ **Syn.** sovereign, self-sufficient
- * **Ant.** dependant, parasitic
- ☒ The people wanted autonomous status for their country and were ready to go to war for it.

AUTONOMY N.

self-governance, liberty, freedom

- ☑ **Syn.** independence, sovereignty
- * **Ant.** dependence, reliance, trust
- ☒ IITs and IIMs are autonomous institutes.
- ☒ The universities are anxious to preserve their autonomy even as the central government suggests greater government role.

AUTOPSY N.

a postmortem examination

- ☒ The autopsy of Napoleon revealed that his death was due to systematic poisoning.

AUXILIARY

supplementary, reserve

- ☑ **Syn.** accompanying, supportive
- ☒ Gasping for air, the mountaineer opened his auxiliary can of oxygen.

AVALANCHE N., V.

a hurtling mass of ice, snow and rock descending a mountain side

- ☑ **Syn.** flood, rush, landslide, storm
- ☒ Sometimes a mere clap can trigger an avalanche.

AVARICE

greed

- ☑ **Syn.** mercenariness, money-grabbing
- * **Ant.** generosity, magnanimity
- ☒ There was no end to his avarice; he wanted more and more gold.

AVENGE V. AVENGER N.

to vindicate, to take revenge on behalf of someone else

- ☑ **Syn.** retaliate, get revenge, get even
- ☒ They say that Mrs Gandhi's assassination prompted by Operation Blue Star.
- ☒ The avenger as portrayed in the movie was a victim of consistent social abuse.

AVER V.

to declare as true

- ☑ **Syn.** avow, state, claim, declare
- * **Ant.** refute, disprove, contest, rebut
- ☒ He averred the veracity of my statement.

AVERSE Adj. AVERSION N.

antipathetic, indisposed, reluctant

- ☑ **Syn.** recalcitrant, uneager, unwilling
- * **Ant.** willing, enthusiastic, interested
- ☒ The government is averse to the idea of releasing criminals for release of kidnapped foreigners.
- ☒ Rajendra's aversion to love can be ascribed to his failed affair.

AVERT

to turn (something) away, prevent, hinder

- ☑ **Syn.** forestall, preclude
- ☒ The queasy medical school student had to avert her eyes when the operation began.

AVIARY N.

a place for keeping birds

- ☒ The aviary at Jeejeebhoy Gardens has a fascinating collection.

AVID Adj.

very enthusiastic, ambitious, desirous to the point of greed

- ☑ **Syn.** keen, enthusiastic, passionate
- * **Ant.** apathetic, indifferent, averse
- ☒ Avid bird-watchers can never ignore the contribution of Dr. Salim Ali.

AVOW V.

declare, acknowledge

- ☑ **Syn.** affirm, state
- * **Ant.** deny, refute, reject, rebuff
- ☒ In spite of the scandals, millions avow that Osho was divine.

AVUNCULAR Adj.

like an uncle

- ☒ Kids delight in his avuncular indulgence.

AWE N., V

reverential wonder or fear (awe-inspiring, awestruck)

- ☑ **Syn.** fear, terror, dread, fright
- ☒ Nehru's staunchest critics were in awe of him.

“B”

BABBLE V., N.

to talk foolishly or inarticulately, to murmur continuously, chatter idly

- ☑ **Syn.** blurb, gossip, prattle
- ☒ Stop babbling while the lecture is going on!
- ☒ You need to talk clearly and forcefully when you are trying to convince somebody, not just babble.

BACCHANAL N. **BACCHANALIAN** Adj.

a wild gathering involving excessive drinking and promiscuity, an orgiastic revelry

- ☒ Late night party goers become bacchanals and indulge in acts that they later regret.

BACON N.

salted and dried flesh of pig

- ☒ John prefers bacon and bread for his breakfast.

BADINAGE N.

light playful talk, banter

- ☒ Avoid badinage if you want to be accepted as serious speaker.

BAFFLING V., Adj., **BAFFLE** N.

to frustrate, confound, confuse, bewilder, impede; a device for controlling the flow of gas, liquid or sound through an opening

- ☑ **Syn.** thwart, perplex, stymie
- * **Ant.** aid, contribute, assist
- ☒ He was completely baffled by the question.
- ☒ Nidhi's baffling behaviour at her birthday party is beyond my comprehension.

BAIL V. (usually used with *out*)

to clear water from by dipping and throwing out; to help escape from a predicament

- ☑ **Syn.** payment, financial guarantee
- ☒ After the main batsmen failed, the team was once again bailed out by the bowlers.
- ☒ The IMF tries to bail out many third world economies but its role is controversial.

BAILIWICK N.

distinct area, a person's normal territory or jurisdiction

- ☑ **Syn.** field, domain, dominion, terrain
- ☒ The MP had no decision making power outside of her bailiwick.

BAIT N., V.

any temptation or allurements as part of a trap; to persecute or exasperate with unjust, malicious or persistent attacks

- ☑ **Syn.** decoy, enticement, lure, tease
- ☒ The tiger came for the bait finally.
- ☒ The dancers in the club baited many young professionals.

BALEFUL

harmful, with evil intentions

- ☑ **Syn.** menacing, malevolent
- * **Ant.** benevolent, friendly
- ☒ The sullen teenager gave his nagging mother a baleful look.

BALLAD N.

a song accompanying a dance, a narrative composition in verse to suit the rhythm of a dance

- ☒ The valour of Laxmibai is beautifully described in the ballads of Bundelkhand.

BALM

medicinal ointment, lotion, something that heals

- ☑ **Syn.** pomade, emollient
- * **Ant.** astringent, irritant
- ☒ The balm of friendship can work wonders at times of great sorrow.

BALLISTICS N. **BALLISTIC** Adj.

science of motion of missiles, bullets, projectiles

- ☒ The details of modern ballistics can be traced to *puranas*.
- ☒ Indian scientists test fired a new ballistic missile today.

BAN

to forbid, outlaw

- ☑ **Syn.** prohibit, debar
- * **Ant.** permit, admit
- ☒ Jagan was banned from the bar for life after he misbehaved and caused damage.

BANAL

trite, overly common

- ☑ **Syn.** cliched, hackneyed
- * **Ant.** original, uncommon
- ☒ His lyrics are considered banal and are no longer popular.

BANDANA N.

a large coloured spotted handkerchief often used as a neckerchief

- ☒ You can spot gypsies wearing bandanas on the beaches of Goa.

BANDIT N.

brigand, desperado, footpad

- ☑ **Syn.** outlaw, crook, conman
- ☒ Travellers started avoiding the Pune-Nashik highway at night, after bandits looted bus passengers.

BANE N. **BANEFUL** Adj.

destruction, death, source of evil, curse, source of bad luck or harm, cause of ruin

- ☑ **Syn.** scourge, curse, pestilence
- * **Ant.** boon, benefit, advantage
- ☒ Sloth and corruption are the bane of Indian administration.

BANTER V., N.

to tease playfully and in good humour

- ☑ **Syn.** gossipry, small-talk, chit-chat
- ★ **Ant.** debate, deliberation
- ☒ Gandhi's banter with Charlie is a cherished page of history.
- ☒ He was surprised to see the violent reaction of his friend on his banter.

BAPTISE V. **BAPTISM** N.

to give a name to, to administer baptism

- ☑ **Syn.** sanctify, describe, denominate, dub
- ☒ A Christian is no Christian unless he is baptised.

BARB N.

a wounding or wittily pointed remark, a medieval cloth headdress.

- ☑ **Syn.** insult, dig, taunt, sting
- ☒ The barbs suffered by Adolf Hitler in childhood transformed him into the Fuhrer.

BARBAROUS Adj. **BARBARIAN** N. **BARBARIC** Adj.

uncivilised, uncultured, harsh or brute

- ☒ In the Second World War, the Japanese army was among the most barbarous.
- ☒ The barbaric treatment of the prisoners in Iraq by American armed forces was condemned by the world.

BARBECUE V., N.

to roast or broil on a rack over hot coals; a fireplace for roasting meat

- ☒ My favourite dish is chicken marinated and barbecued.

BARGE V. **BARGE** N.

to thrust oneself heedlessly or unceremoniously, a roomy pleasure boat

- ☒ Anil suddenly barged into the conference room and this annoyed his father.
- ☒ Owning a big barge is a sign of affluence among the fishermen in America.

BAROQUE N., Adj.

a bold style in architecture, extravagant, ornate, elaborate style of decoration or presentation

- ☑ **Syn.** decorative, elaborate, rococo
- ★ **Ant.** plane, basic, pure, bare, obvious
- ☒ We are fascinated by Melinda's absolutely baroque life; her huge Victorian house, complex career and elaborate clothing intrigue us.
- ☒ The baroque entrance to the lobby is indeed impressive.

BARONIAL Adj.

grand, majestic, august, grandiose

- ☑ **Syn.** grand, impressive, opulent
- ★ **Ant.** humble, modest, poor, meek
- ☒ The baronial rooms of his house depict opulence.

BARRAGE (*BARAAJ*) N.

a heavy or continuous fire, as of questions; a dam

- ☑ **Syn.** bombardment, onslaught
- ☒ Farrakha Barrage has considerably mitigated the flood problem in Bengal and Bihar.
- ☒ Salman dodged a barrage of questions after his court appearance and sped away.

BASH N.

party, celebration

BASHFUL Adj.

shy, demure, quiet

- ☑ **Syn.** coy, diffident, nervous
- ★ **Ant.** bold, extrovert, gregarious
- ☒ She gave a bashful smile as he complimented her on her good work.

BASK V.

to lie in the warmth or sunshine

- ☑ **Syn.** lie around, laze around, relax
- ☒ You can always see tourists basking in the sun on the beaches of Goa.

BASTION N.

a strongly fortified, secured, guarded place

- ☑ **Syn.** bulwark, fort, embankment
- ☒ The club regarded itself as one of the last bastions of male supremacy.

BATE V.

to reduce the force or intensity of

- ☑ **Syn.** slacken, subside, wane
- ☒ The hunter waited with bated breath for the lion to take the bait.

BAUBLE N.

trinket, trifle

- ☒ Young children take pride in showing off their baubles.

BAWDY Adj.

indecent, obscene

- ☑ **Syn.** coarse, vulgar, lewd
- ★ **Ant.** refined, advanced, superior
- ☒ The bawdy remarks infuriated Ipshta and she retaliated.

BAWL V., N.

cry, lament, grieve, bemoan, wail

- ☑ **Syn.** cry, howl, wail, roar, sob, shout
- ★ **Ant.** whisper, murmur, undertone
- ☒ She lay there bawling but nobody came to forward to comfort her.

BAY(v)

to howl long and deep

(n) – large body of water, recess of land

- ☑ **Syn.** howl, bellow
- ☒ The dog bayed all night, much to the annoyance of the neighbours.

BEATIFIC Adj., **BEATITUDE** N.

supremely happy, angelic, giving bliss, blissful

☑ **Syn.** innocent, saintly, virtuous

* **Ant.** evil, wrong, depraved, immoral

☒ The beatific smile on the face of the pilot belied the fact that he was facing certain death.

BEAU N.

lover, dandy, boyfriend

☒ Sara broke up with her beau and needed emotional support.

BECKON V.

to make a summoning to, gesture, motion, nod

☑ **Syn.** signal, sign, summon, gesture

* **Ant.** dismiss, release, discharge, sack

☒ The nation beckons you, young man, rise and shine.

BEDIZEN V., **BEDIZENMENT** N.

to dress vulgarly

☒ I was shocked to see girls bedizened in see-through costumes in the bar.

BEDRAGGLE V.

to wet thoroughly

☒ The puppy waited outside the door, bedraggled and miserable, hoping to be allowed in.

BELABOUR V.

to attack verbally, to explain or insist on excessively

☒ You do not have to belabour the point, I have already accepted my mistake.

BEFUDDLE V.

confuse thoroughly

☑ **Syn.** muddle, mix up, bewilder, baffle

* **Ant.** teach, coach, tutor, educate, drill

☒ The umpire's strange signal befuddled not just the batsman but also the entire fielding side.

BEGRUDGE V.

resent, envy, resist

☒ They begrudged having to stay with their sick father, but put up with it for the sake of the patrimony that awaited them.

BEGUILE

to deceive, mislead, charm

☑ **Syn.** dupe, bewitch

* **Ant.** be honest or straight

☒ You will be beguiled by his sweet talk.

BEHEST N.

command, an urgent prompting

☑ **Syn.** request, command, order, will

☒ The world trade no longer functions at the behest of any one superpower.

BEHEMOTH

huge creature or thing

☑ **Syn.** colossus, goliath

* **Ant.** tiny, lilliput

☒ The spate of mergers are creating corporate behemoths.

BELATED

late, behind time

☑ **Syn.** delayed, overdue

* **Ant.** early, punctual

☒ George handed Sushmita a belated birthday gift with an apologetic grin.

BELEAGUER

harass, surround

☑ **Syn.** annoy, badger

* **Ant.** assist, aid

☒ Manisha's beleaguered parents finally gave in to her request for a PC.

BELITTLE

to represent as unimportant, make light of

☑ **Syn.** demean, disparage

* **Ant.** praise, applaud

☒ Chandrika's parents scolded her for constantly belittling her younger sister's views.

BELLICOSE

ready to fight, aggressive

☑ **Syn.** irascible, hostile

* **Ant.** peaceloving, amiable

☒ Immediately after defeating one of his enemies, the bellicose chieftain declared war on another.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. banal | a. surrounded |
| 2. bastion | b. unoriginal |
| 3. beleaguer | c. combative |
| 4. belittle | d. stronghold |
| 5. belligerent | e. make to seem little |

1.(b) 2.(d) 3.(a) 4.(e) 5.(c)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

BELLIGERENT

hostile, aggressive, fighter

- ☑ **Syn.** disputatious, quarrelsome
- * **Ant.** neutral, friendly
- ☒ The bartender realised that there was no subduing the belligerent drunk.

BELLOW V.

to make a violent cry, to roar out like a bull, scream

- ☑ **Syn.** shout, roar, yell, bawl, holler
- * **Ant.** whisper, sigh, rumour, hint
- ☒ Hitler was known to bellow at his subordinates.

BEMOAN V.

to express deep grief or distress over

- ☒ Ruby bemoaned separation from her lover for six months.

BEMUSE V. BEMUSEMENT N.

BEMUSED Adj.

to put in confusion

- ☑ **Syn.** bewilder, puzzle, perplex, muddle
- ☒ The bemused parents looked at their son's ponytail carefully.

BENCHMARK

standard of measure

- ☑ **Syn.** criterion, yardstick
- ☒ The average scores of the previous year's students are used as a benchmark to assess the new batch.

BENEDICTION N.

good wishes, blessings, encouragement, sanction

- ☑ **Syn.** blessing, approval, sanction
- ☒ Benediction, they say, at the right time, in right amounts, can inspire one to move mountains.

BENEFACTOR

someone giving aid or money

- ☑ **Syn.** patron, champion
- ☒ A mysterious benefactor paid off Ravina's debts, making it possible for her children to attend college.

BENEFICENT

kindly in action and purpose, charitable, producing good effects

- ☑ **Syn.** altruistic, philanthropic
- * **Ant.** unkind, mean
- ☒ Despite his tough reputation, Kumar was a beneficent man, and donated millions to worthy charities.

BENEVOLENCE N., BENEVOLENT Adj.

charitableness, philanthropy, kindness

- ☑ **Syn.** contribution, donation, largesse
- * **Ant.** enmity, resentment, malignancy
- ☒ His benevolence turned out to be a charade to cover his nefarious activities.
- ☒ His benevolent nature is reflected in many of his charity projects.

BENIGN Adj.

kindly, favourable, gracious, gentle, mild, not malignant

- ☑ **Syn.** humane, clement, humanitarian
- * **Ant.** barbarous, cruel, malignant.
- ☒ Her benign presence lent glitter to the occasion.

BEQUEATH V. BEQUEST N.

to leave by will for another, to leave for posterity

- ☑ **Syn.** bestow, accord, hand out
- ☒ Picasso bequeathed Spain and France most of his paintings and sculptures.
- ☒ 'Liberty, equality and fraternity' was one of the rallying cries of the French revolution.

BERATE

to scold harshly

- ☑ **Syn.** rebuke, admonish
- * **Ant.** praise, laud
- ☒ Andy was embarrassed when his mother berated him in public for damaging the family car.

BERSERK Adj.

violently frenzied or angry, out of control, mad

- ☑ **Syn.** maniacal, amok, crazy, mad
- * **Ant.** sane, sensible, sound, normal
- ☒ Denied permission to marry his lady love, Prince Dipendra went berserk and opened fire on his entire family.

BEREAVE V., BEREAVEMENT N.

to deprive of something, to take away by force, state of sorrow after the death of a beloved

- ☒ He was bereaved of his possessions when his father kicked him out of the house.
- ☒ The entire nation was in bereavement after the death of the young prime minister.

BESEECH V.

to entreat, to implore, to ask for, to solicit,

- ☑ **Syn.** beg, request, ask, plead, press
- ☒ He came again and again beseeching for money.

BESIEGE V.

to surround to force to give up, harass, cause to feel distressed

- ☑ **Syn.** blockade, surround, beset
- * **Ant.** divest, uncover, expose
- ☒ After the controversial film was telecast the television company was besieged by angry phone calls and letters.

BESMIRCH V.

to make dirty with smoke or soot, to sully, soil, defile

- ☑ **Syn.** defame, scandalise, malign, slur
- ☒ The crimes they committed in the Second World War besmirched the country's name.

BESTOW

to give as a gift

- ☑ **Syn.** confer on, award to
- * **Ant.** deprive, refuse
- ☒ The students bestowed many gifts upon the teacher on her retirement.

BETROTH V., BETROTHAL N.

become engaged to marry

- ✗ Their betrothal came as a surprise to most of their classmates.

BEVY N.

group, assembly, collection, cluster, covey, flock

- ☑ **Syn.** horde, throng, multitude, pack
- ✗ He got to see a bevy of beautiful girls at the pageant.

BIAS

prejudice, slant

- ☑ **Syn.** partiality, favouritism
- * **Ant.** impartiality, objectivity
- ✗ Racial bias in employment is illegal in the United States.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

list of books

- ☑ **Syn.** catalogue, list of references
- ✗ Please include a bibliography at the end of the thesis so that the reviewer can identify the sources.

BIBLIOPHILE

book lover

- ☑ **Syn.** bookworm, bibliomaniac
- ✗ The librarian was a real bibliophile; she knew every author we mentioned.

BICKER V.

quarrel, quibble, argue

- ☑ **Syn.** dispute, debate, squabble
- * **Ant.** agree, consent, correspond
- ✗ It is pity that educated girls bicker over trivial matters.

BIGOT N., BIGOTED Adj.

biased, narrow-minded person

- ☑ **Syn.** extremist, dogmatist, hypocrite
- ✗ The bigot was thoroughly disliked for his hate-filled opinions.
- ✗ She's so bigoted that she refuses to accept anyone who doesn't think like her.

BILATERAL

two-sided

- ☑ **Syn.** two-pronged, joint
- * **Ant.** independent, unilateral
- ✗ The battle finally came to a halt when the two sides signed a bilateral treaty.

BILIOUS Adj.

related to liver trouble, irritable, suffering from indigestion

- ✗ The ending of the financial year sees many a bilious businessmen.

BILK V., N.

to cheat out of something valuable, frustrate, escape

- ☑ **Syn.** defraud, baffle, disappoint
- ✗ The fake *fakir* bilked the lady of her belongings in the name of God.

BILLET-DOUX N.

a love-letter

- ✗ The love-smitten scholar handed her a note saying, "Here's a little billet-doux," and the simple lady thought he was giving her the bill for the food.

BILLOW V., BILLOWING Adj.

swelling out in waves, surging

- ✗ The billowing emotions across the country may lead to war.

BINGO N., Interjection

a game, an expression of unexpectedness

- ✗ I was just about to borrow some money when bingo! - I won the lottery.

BIOPSY N.

the removal and examination of tissue, cells or fluid from a living body

- ✗ After studying the biopsy report, the doctor assured the patient that the growth was benign.

BISECT – to cut into two (usually equal) parts

- ☑ **Syn.** break in two, split
- * **Ant.** join, unite
- ✗ The new road bisected the forest, putting all the small animals at risk.

BIVOUCAC N., V.

a temporary shelter or camp, tent

- ✗ The first time I slept outdoors was when we had to spend the night in a bivouac in the last year of school.

BIZARRE Adj.

striking; out of ordinary

- ☑ **Syn.** fantastic, extravagant, eccentric
- ✗ Most fashion designers present bizarre creations.

BLANCH V.

bleach, whiten; to parboil in water or steam in order to remove the skin

- ☑ **Syn.** grow pale, lighten, blench
- ✗ Use blanched almonds for this recipe.

BLAND Adj.

smooth, gentle, suave, polite, mild

- ☑ **Syn.** insipid, weak, tasteless, plain
- * **Ant.** spicy, piquant, peppery, zesty
- ✗ Continental food is too bland for the Indian palate.

BLANDISHMENT N.

coaxing, cajoling, flattering, adulation

- ✗ Despite the blandishments offered by the salesman, she resisted buying the product.

BLARE V., N.

to roar, to sound harshly, loud, flamboyance

- ☑ **Syn.** blast, boom, make a racket
- ✗ The blaring horns of the truck will make you deaf one day.
- ✗ His attire this evening is nothing but a blare.

BLASPHEMY N. BLASPHEMOUS Adj.

words/actions meant to mock something, profane speaking, swearing about something sacred, irreverence, cursing

- ☑ **Syn.** desecration, impiety, sacrilege
- ★ **Ant.** faithfulness, godliness, piety
- ☒ Blasphemy is punishable by death in certain fundamentalist countries.
- ☒ Salman Rushdie earned the "fatwa" for his allegedly blasphemous writings.

BLATANT

glaring, obvious, showy

- ☑ **Syn.** shameless, evident
- ★ **Ant.** subtle, inconspicuous
- ☒ The building was constructed in blatant violation of the law.

BLEAK Adj.

colourless, cold, depressing, grim

- ☑ **Syn.** barren, exposed, gaunt, open
- ★ **Ant.** cheerful, happy, smiling, joyful
- ☒ The chances of a majority government at the centre has now become bleak.

BLEMISH N., V.

flaw, stain, defect, scar, blot

- ☑ **Syn.** mark, imperfection, fault, blotch
- ☒ Morarjibhai's 75 years in public life were without a blemish.

BLISS N.

the highest happiness, heavenly happiness

- ☑ **Syn.** ecstasy, paradise, delight
- ★ **Ant.** misery, sadness, grief, sorrow
- ☒ It's bliss to be able to lie back and just forget all about your worries.

BLITHE Adj.

cheerful, sprightly, gay, joyous, merry, casual, lighthearted

- ☑ **Syn.** carefree, unconcerned, happy
- ★ **Ant.** tense, anxious, bothered, edgy
- ☒ He blithely ignored the warning and swam out far from the shore.

BLITZ or BLITZKRIEG N.

a sudden, overwhelming attack; an intensive aerial campaign

- ☑ **Syn.** raid, bombardment, onslaught
- ☒ The Israeli blitzkrieg at Entebbe remains a landmark rescue operation.
- ☒ The launch of the new car was accompanied by a media blitz involving newspapers, magazines, television and radio.

BLOAT V. BLOATED Adj.

to swell out, to puff out, to dilate

- ☑ **Syn.** inflate, blow up, expand, distend
- ☒ The doctor said her face was looking bloated because of water retention.

BLOND (also BLONDE) N., Adj.

a person of fair complexion and golden, light auburn coloured hair

- ☑ **Syn.** fair haired, pale, flaxen
- ☒ Blondes are generally considered beautiful.
- ☒ Meg Ryan's blonde hair gels well with her personality.

BLUSH V.

to grow red out of shame and confusion

- ☑ **Syn.** go red, flush, colour, redden
- ★ **Ant.** blench, draw back, falter, recoil
- ☒ He blushed profusely when she asked him out for dinner.

BLUSTER V., N.

to talk or act with noisy swaggering threats, threaten empty, bully

- ☑ **Syn.** harangue, bulldoze, rant, bristle
- ☒ The bully was all bluster and no substance.
- ☒ Many found Fidel Castro's blusters against the USA quite amusing.

BOG V., N.

marsh, morass, swamp, slow down

- ☑ **Syn.** marshland, quagmire, retard
- ☒ The expansion plans of the company have been bogged down by certain controversies.

BOGGLING Adj.

something astounding, astonishing, amazing

- ☒ Many mind-boggling problems in LR section of CAT 2004 were responsible for the student's poor performance.

BOHEMIAN N.

someone who sets social conventions aside, an artist, unconventional, unorthodox

- ☒ Maqbool Fida Hussein is known for his Bohemian ways.

BOISTEROUS Adj.

wild, noisy and exuberant; turbulent, violent, rough

- ☑ **Syn.** clamorous, obstreperous
- ★ **Ant.** quiet, shy, timid
- ☒ The children were having a boisterous game in the playground.

BOLERO N.

a Spanish dance ; a loose waist-length jacket open at the front

- ☒ Sofia looked beautiful in a beige bolero.
- ☒ There is a bolero being performed at the night-club tonight.

BOLSTER V.

to support, to give a boost to, reinforce

- ☑ **Syn.** boost, strengthen, encourage
- ★ **Ant.** undermine, weaken, challenge
- ☒ Her confidence in group discussions is bolstered by many practice sessions.

BOMBASTIC

using high-sounding but meaningless words

- ☑ **Syn.** pompous, grandiloquent
- * **Ant.** simple, unpretentious
- ☒ The dictator's speeches were mostly bombastic; his outrageous claims had no basis in fact.

BONANZA

extremely large amount; something profitable

- ☑ **Syn.** godsend, windfall
- ☒ Julie was not sure how to use the bonanza when she won the lottery.

BONHOMIE N., BONHOMOUS Adj.

good-natured easy friendliness

- ☑ **Syn.** geniality, affability
- ☒ An atmosphere of bonhomie prevailed at the dance party.

BOON – blessing, something to be thankful for

- ☑ **Syn.** godsend, bonus
- * **Ant.** curse, disadvantage
- ☒ Deepak realised that the new employee's artistic skills would be a real boon to the company.

BOOMERANG V., N.

rebound, backfire; a bent or angular throwing club

- ☑ **Syn.** bounce back, ricochet
- ☒ It was ironic that the Vietnam war boomeranged on the USA.

BOOR

crude person, one lacking manners or taste

- ☑ **Syn.** lout, ruffian
- * **Ant.** gentlemanly, well-behaved
- ☒ He behaved like a boor, disturbing the recital with his continuous chatter.

BOOZE V., N.

to drink excessively

- ☒ They always go boozing after their football match.
- ☒ There's a party at my hostel room on Friday night – bring some booze.

BOULEVARD N.

a broad road bordered by trees, channel, promenade

- ☑ **Syn.** avenue, thoroughfare, drive
- ☒ The boulevards of Paris remain unparalleled in terms of beauty.

BOUNTY N., BOUNTIFUL Adj.

liberality in bestowing gifts

- ☑ **Syn.** reward, prize, payment, generosity
- ☒ The bounty of politicians at the election-time is no longer a secret.
- ☒ The bountiful harvest this year has brought smiles to many a face.

BOURSE N.

a European stock exchange

- ☒ There has been a rise in the number of bourses operating in Europe.

BOURGEOIS

middle-class

- ☑ **Syn.** conservative, materialistic
- * **Ant.** proletarian, communist
- ☒ The bourgeois family found it too difficult to adjust to the new working-class neighbours.

BOUT N.

contest, encounter, outbreak

- ☑ **Syn.** short period, spell, attack, fit
- ☒ This first bout with destiny made him maturer.
- ☒ He suffered from a bout of bronchitis.

BOVINE Adj.

like cow/cattle, dull, placid

- ☒ Democracy is wasted on the bovine and the asinine.
- ☒ He was a gentle, rather bovine man.

BOWDLERIZE V.

to remove objectionable material from a writing, to censor

- ☑ **Syn.** cut, abridge, expurgate, amend
- ☒ So far Taslima Nasreen has refused to bowdlerize 'Lajja'.

BRACKISH Adj.

somewhat saline, rather salty, unappealing

- ☑ **Syn.** salty, briny
- ☒ Though the water in those marshes is brackish and foul-smelling to us, the birds seem to like it.
- ☒ Rahul even sipped the brackish tea prepared by his fiancée.

BRAGGADOCIO N.

arrogant pretension, braggart

- ☑ **Syn.** braggart, cockiness
- ☒ Rahul's braggadocio was beginning to irritate his girlfriend.

BRANDISH V.

to wave and show as a weapon, flourish

- ☑ **Syn.** swing, wave about
- ☒ Brandishing black flags, the protesters gheraoed the minister.

BRASH Adj., BRASHNESS N.

reckless, impetuous, impudent, audacious

- ☑ **Syn.** hasty, foolhardy, aggressive
- * **Ant.** sluggish, unhurried, measured
- ☒ The manager's brashness was the cause of the company's failure.
- ☒ Don't you think that suit is a bit brash for a funeral?

BRAVADO N.

a display of bravery, false show of bravery, swagger, assumed air of defiance

- ☑ **Syn.** boldness, daring
- ☒ It was an act of bravado that made him ask his boss to resign.

BRAZEN

bold, shameless, impudent, of or like brass

- ☑ **Syn.** immodest, abashed
- ★ **Ant.** modest, shy
- ☒ The coach found the declaration to be rather brazen but hoped his cricket team would pull off a win.

BREACH

act of breaking, violation

- ☑ **Syn.** contravention, infringement
- ★ **Ant.** bridge, upholding
- ☒ The record company sued the singer for breach of contract when he recorded for another company.

BREVITY N.

conciseness, shortness, terseness

- ☑ **Syn.** briefness, concision, pithiness
- ★ **Ant.** length, span
- ☒ Brevity is the hallmark of a seasoned orator.

BREW V., N.

to prepare by infusion, boiling and fermentation, to plot; a beverage 'concoction made by brewing'

- ☑ **Syn.** make, ferment, distil, blend
- ☒ Caesar hardly realised what was brewing behind his back.
- ☒ This local brew is one of the strongest liquors I have ever had.

BRIC-A-BRAC N.

old curiosities, knickknacks, ornaments etc.

- ☒ Tourists flock to chor-bazaar for buying bric-a-brac.

BRINK N.

cliff-top, edge, verge

- ☒ Indian economy was on the brink of disaster in 1990.

BRISK Adj.

full of life and spirit, lively

- ☑ **Syn.** bustling, busy, energetic, lively
- ★ **Ant.** slow, sluggish, dawdling
- ☒ The cardiologist advised a brisk walk in the evening.

BROACH V., N.

to veer or yaw dangerously, to pierce for withdrawing the contents, to open up

- ☑ **Syn.** mention, bring up, approach
- ☒ During his visit, the PM is expected to broach the subject of foreign investment.

BROOD V., N.

to meditate silently, to think anxiously for sometime; the young of an animal or a family

- ☑ **Syn.** clutch, litter
- ☒ Shantanu sat at his desk, brooding darkly why she left him.

BROOK V., N.

tolerate, endure; a creek

- ☑ **Syn.** stream, rivulet, accept
- ☒ I could not just brook the delay.
- ☒ A five-star hotel along a brook appears to be a wonderful idea.

BROTHEL N.

a building where prostitutes are available

- ☒ Brothels have been in existence since early ages, catering to man's baser needs.

BRUISE N., V.

contusion, discolouration, sore spot,

- ☑ **Syn.** shiner, bump
- ☒ His ego was bruised when his sister outperformed him in tennis.
- ☒ She suffered a few cuts and bruises but nothing serious.

BRUSQUE Adj.

abrupt, blunt in manners, cheeky, impudent, short, usually unpleasant in effect, curt

- ☑ **Syn.** offhand, rough, brisk, gruff
- ★ **Ant.** civil, social, national, communal
- ☒ The brusque young son of the old lady met a tragic end.

BUCKLE V., N.

to catch, clasp, bend, acquiesce, yield

- ☑ **Syn.** clip, fastener, collapse, crumple
- ★ **Ant.** undo, unfasten, untie, unbutton
- ☒ It's the weak who buckle under threats.

BUCOLIC Adj.

related to cattle-tending, pastoral, rustic, rural

- ☑ **Syn.** pastoral, country, countrified
- ★ **Ant.** urban, municipal, metropolitan
- ☒ Thanks to the government's heavy subsidies, bucolic pursuits earn handsome returns.

BUFFET (v)

to toss about

(n) – a meal consisting of several dishes from which guests serve themselves

- ☑ **Syn.** batter, strike repeatedly and violently
- ☒ The swing, buffeted by the wind, smashed into the tree and broke.

BUFFOON N., BUFFOONERY N.

a person always joking, clown, joker, jester

- ☑ **Syn.** clown, joker, comedian
- ☒ Chaplin's buffoonery was an effective tool of biting sarcasm.
- ☒ Doesn't he get tired of playing the buffoon in class?

BULGE V., N.

project, protrude, jut, overhang, swell, dilate

- ☑ **Syn.** protuberance, knot, hump
- ☒ Come forties and the battle of the bulge begins.
- ☒ Flesh bulged out where the elasticated clothing was too tight.

BULLDOZE V.

to intimidate, to bully, to demolish, push, jostle

- Syn.** flatten, raze, level, clear, force
- Bulldozing may win you the game but never the match.

BULLION (BOOLYEN) N.

gold and silver in the shape of rods or bars

- Syn.** gold, gold bars, gold ingots
- The bullion market came under attack as soon as news of war spread.

BULLY N., V.

a cruel oppressor of the weak, an overbearing fellow

- Syn.** blackmailer, intimidator
- Being an international bully, the USA knows its strengths only too well.
- Bipasha bullied her way into the meeting.

BULWARK

defense wall, anything serving as defense

- Syn.** fortification, barricade
- The villagers used logs to construct a bulwark against the invading army.

BUMPTIOUS Adj.

egotistic, often irritatingly self-assured, pushy, arrogant, unpleasantly confident

- Syn.** boastful, arrogant, brash
- * **Ant.** modest, diffident, humble, meek
- Often, Ravindra comes across as a bumptious teenager but he's really thoughtful and intelligent.

BUNGLE V., N.

to do a job clumsily or awkwardly, goof up

- Syn.** botch, mismanage, ruin
- * **Ant.** succeed, thrive, make it
- Our tour operators really bungled - they booked us on the wrong flight!
- Your bungle is going to cost the company dearly.

BURGEON

to sprout or flourish

- Syn.** proliferate, prosper
- * **Ant.** shrink, wither
- We will need a major expansion to accommodate the burgeoning population of the city.

BURGLAR N.

housebreaker, raider, sneak thief, intruder

- Syn.** robber, criminal
- The anti-burglar alarm system failed last night.

BURLESQUE N.

ludicrous imitation, cheap or vulgar entertainment, satire, a literary or dramatic work making fun or ridiculing by comic exaggeration, a mockery or caricature, an imitation that ridicules

- Syn.** caricature, travesty, lampoon
- Street theatre often attempts the burlesque but rarely succeeds.

BURNISH V., N.

to make bright or lustrous by rubbing

- Syn.** shine, wax, buff, rub, clean
- The car lost its burnish in a year.
- A proper coach can burnish your skills in no time.

BUST V.

to break, shatter, crack, arrest

- Syn.** out of order, broken
- * **Ant.** mend, repair, fix, restore
- The police busted the gang of drug dealers gang.
- Mary and her boyfriend bust up last week.

BUTTRESS N., V.

a support, foundation, base

- Syn.** prop, reinforcement, bolster
- Soon after the church was built buttresses had to be built along the south wall because it was beginning to collapse.

BUXOM Adj.

vigorously or healthily plump, full bosomed

- A scantily dressed buxom blonde attracted the crowd towards the new car she was promoting in the trade fair.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. benefactor | a. carefree |
| 2. benign | b. middle class |
| 3. blatant | c. donor |
| 4. blithe | d. not harmful |
| 5. bourgeois | e. offensively noisy |

1.(c) 2.(d) 3.(e) 4.(a) 5.(b)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

“C”

CABAL N.

a small party united for a secret purpose, gang, conspiracy, plot

- ☑ **Syn.** group, unit, sect, faction, section
- ☞ It is alleged that he was a member of the cabal responsible for the bombings.

CACHE (*KASH*) N.

a hiding place for treasure, provision, ammunition etc., storehouse

- ☑ **Syn.** store, accumulation, reserve
- ☞ I keep a cache of chocolate at the back of the cupboard.

CACHET (*KASHAY*) N.

a seal usually used as a mark of official approval, a distinctive stamp of prestige, mark, emblem

- ☑ **Syn.** status, reputation
- ☞ The Diners club card was a prized cachet in the not-so-distant past.

CACOPHONY N., **CACOPHONOUS** Adj.

discord, horrible sound; harsh, displeasing noise

- ☑ **Syn.** dissonance, disharmony
- * **Ant.** harmony, accord, agreement
- ☞ There are some people who enjoy even the cacophony of the streets.

CADAVER N., **CADAVEROUS** Adj.

corpse

- ☑ **Syn.** dead body, remains, carcass
- ☞ Rivers like the Ganges, the Yamuna etc. have been polluted by human and animal cadavers, in addition to other pollutants.
- ☞ He is so emaciated that he appears cadaverous.

CADENCE N.

Balanced, rhythmic flow, as of poetry or oratory

- ☞ The cadence of the parade at the Republic Day always instils a sense of patriotism in me.

CAGEY Adj.

secretive, artfully shy, marked by cleverness

- ☑ **Syn.** wary, guarded, reticent, evasive
- * **Ant.** careless, slapdash, imprudent
- ☞ The secret service is cagey about the whole phone-tapping business.

CAJOLE

to flatter, coax, persuade

- ☑ **Syn.** wheedle, coax
- * **Ant.** bully, coerce
- ☞ She was confident that she could cajole her father into buying her a new dress.

CALAMITY N., **CALAMITOUS** Adj.

catastrophe, affliction, disaster

- ☑ **Syn.** hardship, distress
- * **Ant.** prosperity, tranquillity, blessing
- ☞ They feared the calamitous consequences of yet another war.
- ☞ The UTI scam came as a calamity to the middle class.

CALLIGRAPHY N.

beautiful penmanship, a characteristic writing

- ☑ **Syn.** lettering, handwriting
- ☞ Mary won the calligraphy prize when she was at school.

CALLOUS Adj., **CALLOUSNESS** N.

hardened, cruel, insensitive, unfeeling

- ☑ **Syn.** apathetic, cold, hard-hearted
- * **Ant.** sensitive, empathetic, tender
- ☞ The officialdom is notorious for its callousness.
- ☞ Smriti's callous behaviour is an outcome of years of repression.

CALLOW Adj.

inexperienced, immature, juvenile, unsophisticated, youthful

- ☑ **Syn.** naive, adolescent, green
- * **Ant.** stylish, difficult, urbane, mature
- ☞ Richard was just a callow youth of sixteen when he arrived in Paris.

CALUMNIATE V., **CALUMNY** N.

to spread malicious slander

- ☞ Media is always handy in calumniating a politician or a public figure.
- ☞ The office was torn apart by calumny; soon nobody trusted anybody.

CAMARADERIE N.

good fellowship, the feeling of comradeship

- ☑ **Syn.** brotherhood, esprit de corps
- * **Ant.** enmity, hostility, antagonism
- ☞ Peace-loving nations of the world must unite as it is only through camaraderie that the evils of the world can be eliminated.

CAMEO N.

shell or jewel carved in relief; a small theatrical appearance

- ☑ **Syn.** character part, cameo role
- ☞ He has a cupboard full of cameos.
- ☞ Even a cameo by Amitabh Bachhan is sufficient to pull the crowds to the theatres.

CAMOUFLAGE N., Adj., V.

a device used for disguising oneself to deceive others, conceal

- ☑ **Syn.** disguise, mask, obscure, facade
- ☞ The chameleon's camouflage was so good that the bird failed to spot it.
- ☞ Militarymen wear a camouflage jacket.

CANARD N.

An unfounded or false, deliberately misleading story

- ☒ The canard of sexual exploitation in the university claimed its first victim as the professor committed suicide.

CANDID Adj., **CANDIDNESS** N.,**CANDOUR** N.

frank, ingenuous, clear, impartial, fair, open and honest, free of bias even to the extent of bluntness

- ☒ **Syn.** true, veracious, scrupulous
- * **Ant.** false, untrue, dishonest, evasive
- ☒ A candid judgement is what we all seek from the judiciary.
- ☒ They often criticised me for my candour, but realised its significance when I was given the best manager award.

CANINE Adj., N.

like or pertaining to a dog, related to dogs

- ☒ The feline are loners while the canine move in packs.
- ☒ Sometimes my canine instinct is aroused but I quickly control it.

CANNIBAL N., **CANNIBALISM** N.

one who eats of the flesh of one's own species

- ☒ It is believed that even today cannibals exist in some parts of our country.

CANNY

smart, founded on common sense, careful

- ☒ **Syn.** astute, sharp
- * **Ant.** obtuse, unintelligent
- ☒ The executive's canny business sense saved the company from bankruptcy.

CANOE (*KENOO*) N.

a boat made of hollowed trunk of a tree

- ☒ Canoes are the cheapest mode of transport in the backwaters of Kerala.

CANON N.

a law or a rule, standard or criterion

- ☒ **Syn.** norm, principle, tenet, annals
- ☒ Hard working executives coin their own canons of business practice.

CANOPY N., V.

awning, covering, shade, tester

- ☒ **Syn.** cover, shelter, blind, roof
- ☒ We sat drinking our coffee under the canopy, grateful for the shade.

CANT N., V.

a hypocritical or perfunctory style of speech, incline, jargon, trite talk, dialect of a particular group

- ☒ **Syn.** insincerity, false piety, humbug
- * **Ant.** seriousness, earnestness
- ☒ Despite his cant he cannot pass off as a foreigner.

CANTANKEROUS Adj.

perverse in temper, testy, quarrelsome

- ☒ **Syn.** argumentative, contentious
- * **Ant.** quiet, submissive
- ☒ The older some people get, the more demanding and cantankerous they seem to become.

CANTER N., V.

an easy gallop/motion

- ☒ **Syn.** run, gallop, trot, jog, sprint
- ☒ The horse's canter was so graceful!

CANVASS V., N.

determine or seek opinions, votes; to do a survey, solicit votes, opinions or orders; a firm closely woven cloth used as a surface for painting

- ☒ **Syn.** drum up support, test, poll
- ☒ The party workers canvassed the whole night for the local candidate.
- ☒ Mona Lisa, the canvass by Leonardo Da Vinci is a masterpiece to many and a mystery to some.

CAPACIOUS

large, roomy, extensive

- ☒ **Syn.** spacious, commodious
- * **Ant.** small, cramped
- ☒ We wondered how many stores occupied the capacious mall.

CAPE N.

a point or extension of land jutting out in water like a peninsula; a sleeveless outer garment that fits closely at the neck and hangs loosely over the shoulders.

- ☒ **Syn.** isthmus, mantle, promontory, headland
- ☒ Ships had to sail around the Cape of Good Hope in order to reach India.
- ☒ Sushmita wore a purple woollen cape for the IFFI awards.

CAPITOL V.

the building in which a legislature convenes (in the US), senate

- ☒ Following the bomb threat, the capitol was evacuated.

CAPITULATE V.

to yield or surrender on certain conditions, to give in, acquiesce

- ☒ **Syn.** cede, succumb, yield, forfeit
- * **Ant.** vanquish, subdue, overcome
- ☒ The company had to capitulate to the employees' demand of a wage hike.

CAPRICE N., **CAPRICIOUS** Adj.

a sudden/abrupt change of mind or opinion

- ☒ **Syn.** impulse, quirk, fancy, fad, vagary
- ☒ The caprice of fate caught him unawares.

CAPSIZE V.

to overturn

- ☒ **Syn.** keel over, tip over, upset
- ☒ The police said that the boat had capsized because of overloading.

CAPTIOUS Adj.

ready to find faults, hypercritical, faultfinding

- ☑ **Syn.** peevish, censorious, hairsplitting
- ☒ He preferred to work overtime than go home to his captious wife.

CARAFE N.

A glass pot with a pouring spout, used in making coffee or tea

- ☒ "Serve me tea in a carafe," he ordered, pushing the mug aside.

CARAVAN N., V.

a group of people travelling together

- ☑ **Syn.** procession, convoy, motorcade
- ☒ The VIP caravan will arrive shortly.
- ☒ We take the children camping or caravanning every summer.

CARCINOGENIC Adj. **CARCINOGEN** N.

a substance that promotes growth of cancer

- ☒ Ultraviolet rays of the sun are carcinogenic.
- ☒ Cigarette smoke contains many carcinogens; that's why smoking is banned at public places.

CARDIOLOGIST

physician specialising in diseases of the heart

- ☒ Although a famous cardiologist performed the operation, Krishna's heart transplant was unsuccessful.

CAREEN V.

To lurch or swerve while in motion

- ☑ **Syn.** stagger, sway, swing
- ☒ The car careened to a grinding halt as I jammed the brakes.

CARICATURE N.

distortion, burlesque

- ☑ **Syn.** cartoon, drawing, skit, sketch
- ☒ There was a wonderful caricature of the prime minister in the newspaper yesterday.

CARNAGE N.

a massacre, large scale killing of people, blood bath, destruction of life, slaughter

- ☑ **Syn.** mass killing, bloodshed, butchery
- ☒ The images of the Godhra carnage still haunt its victims.

CARNAL Adj.

relating to or given to crude bodily pleasures or appetites; marked by sexuality

- ☒ His tastes lie on the carnal side of life.

CARNIVOROUS

meat-eating

- ☑ **Syn.** predatory, raptorial
- * **Ant.** herbivorous, vegetarian
- ☒ Dogs are carnivorous animals and do not do well on a vegetarian diet.

CAROUSAL N., **CAROUSE** V.

Boisterous drunken merrymaking or revelry

- ☒ Sameer lost his senses in the New Year's eve carousal and abused Preeti.

CARP V. **CARPING** N., Adj.

to criticise unreasonably, nag, scold, berate, cavil, flay, to nitpick, find fault in a petty manner

- ☑ **Syn.** complain, moan, grumble, nag
- ☒ He's convinced that however much people carp about junk mail, most couldn't live without it.
- ☒ After years of having to listen to her carping criticism, he finally left her.

CARTOGRAPHY N. **CARTOGRAPHER** N.

the science of map-making

- ☒ Cartography originated in Mesopotamia.
- ☒ Leonardo-da-Vinci was a cartographer too.

CASANOVA N.

lover *esp*; a man who is a promiscuous and unscrupulous

- ☒ Commitment in a relationship is not expected of a casanova.

CASCADE N., V.

small waterfall; something falling or rushing forth in quantity

- ☑ **Syn.** flow, pour, drop, spill, tumble
- ☒ A series of cascades had been caused by large boulders which had fallen into the stream.
- ☒ Coins cascaded out of the vending machine.

CASTIGATE

to punish, chastise, criticise severely

- ☑ **Syn.** reprimand, admonish
- * **Ant.** praise, commend
- ☒ Sunil's father castigated him for not attending the morning prayer.

CATAclysm N.

deluge, upheaval

- ☑ **Syn.** catastrophe, disaster, calamity
- ☒ The organised killing of millions will have a cataclysmic effect on the small African nation that has been already ravaged by AIDS.

CATALYST

something that does not change but causes change

- ☑ **Syn.** accelerator, stimulant
- * **Ant.** blockage, anticatalyst
- ☒ The imposition of fresh taxes acted as a catalyst and the revolution gathered momentum.

CATARACT N.

great waterfall; eye abnormality

- ☑ **Syn.** cascade, chute, torrent, flume
- ☒ Victoria Falls is a mighty cataract.
- ☒ Diabetes also causes cataract.

CATASTROPHE N. CATASTROPHIC Adj.

adversity, affliction, blow, mass destruction, disaster

- ☑ **Syn.** calamity, misfortune, ruin
- ☒ A catastrophic storm ravaged the city.
- ☒ The emigration of scientists is a catastrophe for the country.

CATEGORICAL Adj. CATEGORICALLY Adv.

unequivocal, unambiguous, total, definite, absolute

- ☑ **Syn.** clear-cut, uncompromising
- * **Ant.** qualified, fit, capable, competent
- ☒ He wanted a categorical reply to his query.
- ☒ Though the government categorically denied any plans for retrenchment, the employees of PSUs were not convinced.

CATHARTIC Adj., N. CATHARSIS N.

purifying, purgative, cleansing

- ☑ **Syn.** liberating, beneficial, energising
- ☒ Mountaineering, the buffs say, is a cathartic experience.

CATHOLIC

universal, broad and comprehensive

- ☑ **Syn.** generic, unbiased
- * **Ant.** parochial, limited
- ☒ Hot tea with honey is a catholic remedy for a sore throat.

CAUCUS N.

Any small and influential group within a larger body

- ☑ **Syn.** conclave, committee, conference
- ☒ In the US, caucuses are sometimes held to decide which candidate a group will support.

CAUSALITY

cause and effect relationship

- ☑ **Syn.** connection, agent
- ☒ There was definite causality between the new pet and Reshma's respiratory problems.

CAUSTIC

biting, sarcastic, able to burn

- ☑ **Syn.** stinging, scathing
- * **Ant.** kind, soothing
- ☒ Khaled Mohammed is reputed for his well-written but caustic movie reviews.

CAUTERIZE V.

to burn/destroy/sear with a hot substance

- ☒ Cauterisation was the only cure for Rabies in the 18th century.

CAVALCADE N.

a procession or sequence

- ☑ **Syn.** column, caravan, convoy, line
- ☒ The PM's cavalcade passed through the city an hour ago.

CAVALIER (n)

mounted soldier

(adj) haughty, unceremonious

- ☑ **Syn.** offhand, contemptuous
- * **Ant.** respectful, modest
- ☒ The nobleman's cavalier attitude towards the suffering of the peasants made them hate him.

CAVIL V., N.

to find faults with or raise trivial objections to, to object in an unimportant way, to find fault in a captious way

- ☑ **Syn.** carp, quibble, nudge, henpeck
- ☒ Do not cavil or you will demoralise the young scientist.
- ☒ They cavilled at the price, although many freebies had been included.

CEDE V.

transfer, yield title to, surrender formally

- ☑ **Syn.** concede, let go, relinquish
- * **Ant.** acquire, obtain, attain, buy
- ☒ He ceded all his real estate to the school of the handicapped.

CELERITY N.

alacrity, cadence, swiftness, stride, speed, rapidity

- ☑ **Syn.** haste, promptness
- ☑ **Ant.** disregard, lassitude
- ☒ James Bond's celerity holds the audience spellbound.

CELIBACY N. CELIBATE Adj.

unmarried state especially under a vow

- ☒ Catholic priests are expected to lead celibate lives.
- ☒ *Bhishma of Mahabharata* observed celibacy.

CELEBRITY

fame, well-known person

- ☑ **Syn.** stardom, renown
- * **Ant.** obscurity, anonymity
- ☒ The celebrity was mobbed by crazed fans as soon as he stepped out of the car.

CELLAR N.

basement, bunker, crypt, vault

- ☑ **Syn.** vault, underground room
- ☒ The cellars full of wine casks made a tempting sight.

CEMETERY N.

burial ground, churchyard, graveyard

- ☑ **Syn.** memorial park
- ☒ The municipal cemetery dotted with tombstones provided the eerie setting for the finale of the horror movie.

CENSURE (SENSHER) V., N

to condemn, to blame, to express disapproval of

- ☑ **Syn.** fault, reprimand, knock, scorn
- * **Ant.** praise, admire, extol, eulogise
- ☒ The directors were censured for their lack of decisiveness during the crisis.

CENTRIPETAL

directed or moving towards the centre

- * **Ant.** centrifugal
- ☒ Centripetal force keeps trains from derailing as they round curves.

CERULEAN Adj.

sky blue, sea green

- ☑ **Syn.** azure, cobalt, navy, sapphire
- ☒ I was mesmerised by her cerulean eyes.

CESSATION N., CEASE V.

a stopping, pause, suspension

- ☑ **Syn.** termination, close, ending, pause
- ☒ The politician asked if the cessation of terrorist activities had made the Punjab police complacent.

CHAFE V.

to wear off by rubbing, to abrade, to get irritate, vex

- ☑ **Syn.** scrap, scratch, annoy
- ☒ Please make sure that the collar is not too tight or it might chafe the dog's neck.
- ☒ He was a man of vision who chafed against the cruel practices of his time.

CHAGRIN N.

something that annoys or causes embarrassment, feeling distress, embarrassment, unhappiness brought on by humiliation, disappointment, vexation

- ☑ **Syn.** mortification
- ☒ Much to his chagrin, he found that the work had not been completed.

CHAMPION (v)

to defend or support

(n) – victor, winner

- ☑ **Syn.** proponent, promoter
- * **Ant.** opponent, critic
- ☒ Usha continued to champion the rights of the prisoner, as she believed that he was innocent.

CHAOS N. CHAOTIC Adj.

commotion, disturbance, anarchy, confusion, extreme disorder, confusion

- ☑ **Syn.** imbroglia, clutter, disarray
- * **Ant.** regularity, uniformity, symmetry
- ☒ Chaos theory is a scientific theory about situations that obey particular laws but appear to have little or no order.

CHAPERON N.

an older person who supervises and protects younger ones

- ☑ **Syn.** escort, guide, retinue
- ☒ The family was chaperoned to safety by the commandos.

CHARISMA N. CHARISMATIC Adj.

divine gift; great popular charm or appeal

- ☑ **Syn.** personality, magnetism, allure
- ☒ I can't understand how a man of so little personal charisma came to be the chairman of this company.
- ☒ A charismatic actor like Shahrukh is a known face in Hollywood too.

CHARLATAN

quack, fake

- ☑ **Syn.** fraud, cheat
- * **Ant.** real, genuine
- ☒ The patient called the doctor a charlatan as the medicines did not work.

CHARY Adj.

careful, prudent, wary, watchful, ungenerous, stingy, cautious

- ☑ **Syn.** suspicious, mindful, shy of
- ☒ Banks used to lend money to anyone but they've grown chary since the recession.

CHASM (KAZM) N.

a big gap on earth's surface, abyss, a major difference of opinion

- ☑ **Syn.** breach, cleft, canyon, gorge
- ☒ They leaned over the rails and peered down into the dizzying chasm below.
- ☒ As the talks failed, the political chasm between the two countries widened.

CHASTE Adj.

refined and pure in style, modest, pure from unlawful sexual intercourse

- ☑ **Syn.** abstinent, maidenly, virginal
- ☒ In the past, a woman needed to be chaste to make a good marriage.

CHASTISE V., CHASTEN (CHASM) Adj.

to punish, to restrain or moderate, to castigate

- ☑ **Syn.** reprimand, discipline, chastise
- ☒ To chasten his errant son, the father disowned him.
- ☒ The kids were chastised for picking their neighbours' flowers.

CHAUVINIST N. CHAUVINISM N. CHAUVINISTIC Adj.

blindly devoted patriot; prejudiced belief in the superiority of one's own gender

- ☑ **Syn.** bigot, sexist
- ☒ It is male chauvinism, when the few women who have jobs are ridiculed.

CHECKERED/CHEQUERED Adj.

patterned with alternating squares of colour; to vary with contrasting elements or situations

- ☒ As the chequered flag went up in the Shanghai Grand Prix, Ferrari won this year's championship.
- ☒ In his checkered career, he lived in palaces as well as barns.

CHERUBIC Adj.

angelic, innocent-looking

- ☒ **Syn.** divine, holy, blessed, spiritual
- ☒ Her eyes, her innocent queries and her disarming smile make her cherubic.

CHIC (*SHEK*) N., Adj.

style, elegance, skill, fashionable

- ☒ **Syn.** attractive, elegant, modish
- ☒ She wears chic, expensive clothes with designer labels.
- ☒ Chic females in the malls is what attracts boys there.

CHICANERY

trickery, fraud, deception

- ☒ **Syn.** deceit, duplicity
- * **Ant.** honesty, scrupulousness
- ☒ The buyer must be on guard against chicanery while buying a used car.

CHIDE

to scold, express disapproval

- ☒ **Syn.** chastise, reprimand
- * **Ant.** laud, approve
- ☒ Fatima chided her dog for eating the birthday cake that she had baked for her friend.

CHIMERA (*KI MERA*) N. **CHIMERICAL** Adj.

a wild fancy

- ☒ **Syn.** fantasy, daydream
- * **Ant.** reality, realism, truth, certainty
- ☒ Precision and quality is a chimera for Chinese manufacturers, according to their Indian rivals.

CHIVALROUS (*SHI-VALROUS*) Adj. **CHIVALRY** N.

brave, bold, gallant, courteous to ladies

- ☒ **Syn.** courtly, mannerly, gracious
- * **Ant.** boorish, rude, impolite, rough
- ☒ Men, they say, are chivalrous as long as the bride is new or belongs to another.
- ☒ Chivalry in tits and bits is still visible in the Indian society.

CHOLERIC

easily angered, short-tempered

- ☒ **Syn.** irritable, irascible
- * **Ant.** amiable, affable
- ☒ The choleric principal raged at the students who had come late to school.

CHOICE (adj.)

specially selected, preferred

- (n) – selection, picking
- ☒ **Syn.** finest, exclusive
- * **Ant.** inferior, mediocre
- ☒ When he took the choicest cut of the cake for himself, it annoyed everybody.

CHROMATIC – relating to colour

- ☒ **Syn.** hued, bright
- * **Ant.** wan, pallid
- ☒ As he was colour blind, his chromatic perception was different from normal people.

CHRONIC Adj.

of long duration, continuing

- ☒ **Syn.** prolonged, persistent, extended
- ☒ Sloth is a chronic malady of the Indian psyche.

CHURLISH Adj., **CHURLISHNESS** N.

rude, ungracious, insolent, ill-mannered

- ☒ **Syn.** boorish, truculent, impolite
- * **Ant.** courteous, polite, considerate
- ☒ Riches should not be an excuse for churlishness.
- ☒ They invited me to dinner and I thought it would be churlish to refuse.

CHUTZPAH (*HOOTSPE*) N.

excessive boldness, nerve

- ☒ **Syn.** gall, brashness, effrontery
- ☒ Bhutto's chutzpah met an ignominious end.

CIRCUITOUS Adj.

having a circular or winding route; roundabout

- ☒ **Syn.** indirect, meandering, winding
- * **Ant.** direct, straight, through
- ☒ To declare someone very simple is a circuitous way of calling him a fool.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. cosmopolitan | a. believable |
| 2. covert | b. worldly and sophisticated |
| 3. credible | c. mysterious |
| 4. criterion | d. standard |
| 5. cryptic | e. secret |

1.(b) 2.(e) 3.(a) 4.(d) 5.(c)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

CIRCUMLOCUTION N.

expressing an idea indirectly, evasive talk, pleonasm

- ☞ Politicians excel in the art of circumlocution.

CIRCUMSCRIBE

to encircle, restrict, confine

- ☑ **Syn.** surround, demarcate

* **Ant.** liberate, set free

- ☞ Pahalgam is circumscribed by rolling mountains.

CIRCUMSPECT

cautious, wary

- ☑ **Syn.** guarded, secretive

* **Ant.** frank, open

- ☞ Repeated failures have made Jack far more circumspect in his ventures.

CIRCUMVENT

to go around, avoid

- ☑ **Syn.** evade, dodge

* **Ant.** confront, face

- ☞ Lalita circumvented the hospital's rules and remained long after visiting hours, pretending to be a doctor's relative.

CISTERN

tank for rainwater

- ☑ **Syn.** reservoir, vat

- ☞ When their water supply was cut off, the family had to rely on the old cistern.

CITADEL

fortress or stronghold

- ☑ **Syn.** castle, fortification

- ☞ The nobleman retreated to his citadel to protect himself from an attack.

CIVIL

polite, relating to citizens

- ☑ **Syn.** civilised, polished

* **Ant.** impolite, uncultured

- ☞ Police officers are instructed to be civil to the general public, although cases of highhandedness continue to occur.

CLAIRVOYANT Adj., CLAIRVOYANCE N.

Having the power to see objects or events that cannot be perceived by the senses

- ☞ The clairvoyant foretold the rise of India and China as new superpowers.

CLANDESTINE

secretive, concealed for a darker purpose

- ☑ **Syn.** covert, stealthy

* **Ant.** open, above board

- ☞ The double agent paid many clandestine visits to the president's office in the dead of night.

CLAMBER V.

climb by crawling

- ☑ **Syn.** scramble, scale, mount, crawl

- ☞ He clambered up the cliff inch by inch.

CLAMOUR N., CLAMOUROUS N.

a loud continuous outcry

- ☑ **Syn.** yell, cry, screech, bawl, holler

* **Ant.** whisper, sigh, rumour, hint

- ☞ Every politician clamours for a place in the cabinet.

CLANGOUR N.

loud, resounding noise

- ☑ **Syn.** peal, ringing, tolling, dingdong

- ☞ The noise level in today's life has reached such a level, that the clangour destroys all peace.

CLARITY

clearness, clear understanding

- ☑ **Syn.** lucidity, comprehensibility

* **Ant.** confusion, incomprehensibility

- ☞ She explained the plan to him with the utmost clarity, but he still failed to understand.

CLAUSTROPHOBIA N.**CLAUSTROPHOBIC Adj.**

fear of small enclosed spaces

- ☞ Because of his claustrophobia, he used to keep the doors of his room wide open, even when he slept.

- ☞ I feel claustrophobic in crowded suburban trains.

CLEAVE V.

to separate into distinct parts, to split

- ☑ **Syn.** slice, cut, slash, smite, hew, chop

- ☞ Communal politics finally cleaved Indian subcontinent.

CLEMENT Adj., CLEMENCY N.

disposition to be lenient; mildness, as of the weather

- ☑ **Syn.** mercy, forgiveness, moderation

* **Ant.** harshness, austerity, bleakness

- ☞ When the supreme court upheld the death penalty, the prisoner prayed to the President of India for clemency.

- ☞ Justice Bhandari is known to be a clement judge and has never awarded the capital punishment.

CLICHE (KLEESHAY) N., Adj.

a stereotyped phrase, overworked expression, banality

- ☑ **Syn.** commonplace, platitude

- ☞ Women's emancipation has become a cliché.

- ☞ His clichéd expressions failed to rouse her empathy for him.

CLIQUE N.

small, exclusive group

- ☑ **Syn.** cabal, faction, clan, gang, coterie

- ☞ He left the party, claiming that a clique had hijacked its ideals.

CLOISTER N., V.

A place, especially a monastery or convent, devoted to religious seclusion; to seclude

- ☞ Dr. Ashok Sen, a nuclear scientist, cloistered himself in his lab for years, to come up with a nucleus separator.

CLOSET N., V.

a small private room, private chambers of a sovereign

- ☑ **Syn.** private, clandestine, secretive
- * **Ant.** open, unlock, unbolt, unfasten
- ☒ Once the CBI enquiry started, the secrets started coming out of the closet.

CLOUT N.

great influence, especially political or social

- ☑ **Syn.** wallop, whack, smack, blow
- ☒ Women in dual-earner households are gaining in job status and earnings, giving them more clout at work and at home.

CLOYING Adj.

distasteful because excessive, excessively sweet or sentimental

- ☑ **Syn.** over-sweet, sticky, sugary
- * **Ant.** clean, spotless, dirt free, tidy
- ☒ She criticised what she described as the film's cloying sentimentality.

COAX V.

to try and persuade by flattery or fondling, to soothe or pet, cajole

- ☑ **Syn.** wheedle, persuade, entice
- * **Ant.** force, compel, coerce
- ☒ He coaxed his parents into sending him abroad.

COAGULATE

to clot or change from a liquid to a solid

- ☑ **Syn.** clot, thicken
- * **Ant.** liquefy, melt
- ☒ Haemophiliacs can bleed to death because their blood is incapable of coagulating.

COERCE

to compel by force, intimidate

- ☑ **Syn.** constrain, pressurise
- * **Ant.** persuade, coax
- ☒ The gun-wielding thief coerced the cashier into handing over all the money.

COCOON N.

the silky protective sheath spun by insect larvae while developing

- ☑ **Syn.** insulate, protect, envelop, wrap
- * **Ant.** expose, picture, rendering
- ☒ The only way to succeed is to break out of the cocoon of inhibitions.
- ☒ Rajesh cocooned himself from the world after his failed suicide attempt.

CODDLE V.

to treat gently, pamper

- ☒ We never coddle our students.

COFFER N.

a chest for holding treasure or money, vault

- ☑ **Syn.** casket, strongbox, safe, treasury
- ☒ The government's forex coffers were empty in 1991.

COG N.

a spoke in a wheel, an unimportant person in a large organisation

- ☑ **Syn.** component, gear, mechanism
- ☒ Oil the cogs, they say, to keep the wheel moving.

COGENT Adj.

convincing, persuasive, pertinent

- ☑ **Syn.** forceful, strong, well-argued, relevant
- * **Ant.** unconvincing, weak, feeble
- ☒ Hitler's cogent arguments were enough to convince his countrymen about the legitimacy of his heinous crimes.

COGITATE V.

to give serious consideration or thought to, to contemplate, think over

- ☑ **Syn.** consider, deliberate, ruminate
- ☒ For a world-class economy India must cogitate over eco-friendly legislation.

COGNOSCENTE (*CONYOSHENTI*) N.

a critical judge of something, a connoisseur, esp. one of arts, wines etc.

- ☒ When it comes to wines, he is considered a cognoscente.

COHERENT

intelligible, lucid, understandable

- ☑ **Syn.** rational, comprehensible
- * **Ant.** irrational, muddled
- ☒ Chitra was so tired that her speech was barely coherent.

COHORTS N.

henchmen

- ☒ The mafia kingpin arrived in Mumbai along with his cohorts.

COLLAGE N.

any work put together from assembled fragments

- ☑ **Syn.** patchwork, collection
- ☒ India is a veritable collage of cultures and ideologies.

COLLATE V., **COLLATION** N.

to assemble pages of a file or manuscript in proper order, sort, correlate; a light meal

- ☑ **Syn.** collect, gather, assemble, pool
- ☒ The anthropologists have more or less collated the history of mankind.
- ☒ Since he invariably reached home late, he preferred a collation to a heavy meal.

COLLATERAL

accompaniment, security

- ☑ **Syn.** corroborative, surety
- ☒ The CEO urged the managers to stick to the agenda and not be distracted by collateral issues.

COLLOQUY N.

mutual discourse, fairly serious conversation, dialogue, conference

- ☑ **Syn.** discussion, meeting, symposium
- ☒ John burst into the house eager to tell his good news but, noticing that his parents were engaged in quiet colloquy, he decided to wait.

COLLOQUIAL Adj., N.

informal talk, unceremonious talk, pertaining to conversational talk

- ☑ **Syn.** idiomatic, everyday
- ☒ His colloquial manner was contrary to the traditional stiff-upper-lip of the British.

COLOSSAL Adj., **COLOSSUS** N.

huge, enormous; a huge statue

- ☑ **Syn.** gargantuan, mammoth, titan
- ☒ The swindling employee caused colossal damage to the company.
- ☒ India is ruled by the colossus of bureaucracy.

COLLUSION N.

A secret agreement between two or more parties for a fraudulent, illegal, or deceitful purpose; connivance

- ☒ The collusion between the two terrorist groups is a matter of grave concern for the police department.

COMATOSE Adj.

drowsy, sleepy, affected with coma, unconscious

- ☑ **Syn.** exhausted, spent, passed out, torpid
- * **Ant.** energetic, active, brisk, bouncy
- ☒ The editorial asked if the intelligence of the country was comatose after the police failed to achieve any breakthrough in the bomb blasts case.

COMELY Adj.

pleasing and wholesome in appearance; attractive

- ☒ I would love to have a comely girl as my wife.

COMMEMORATE V.

to celebrate, to preserve the memory of

- ☑ **Syn.** honour, remember, observe
- * **Ant.** ignore, disregard, discount
- ☒ A statue has been built to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of the poet.

COMMEND

to compliment, praise

- ☑ **Syn.** applaud, extol
- * **Ant.** criticise, condemn
- ☒ The teacher commended Yukta on her brilliant performance in the test.

COMMENSURATE

proportional

- ☑ **Syn.** equivalent, corresponding
- * **Ant.** disproportionate, inordinate
- ☒ Steve was given a salary commensurate with his experience.

COMMENSURABLE Adj.

capable of being measured by same unit

- ☒ The grief suffered by the innocent victims of the blast and the alleged injustices meted out to the jailed comrades were certainly not commensurable.

COMMISSARY N.

one to whom any charge is committed, an officer, a deputy

- ☒ He is the newly appointed commissary for the region.

COMMISERATE V.

to condole with, to express pity for, to sympathise with

- ☑ **Syn.** empathise, console
- ☒ Most commiserate with the poor, only a few lend a helping hand.

COMMODIOUS Adj.

roomy, spacious, comfortable

- ☑ **Syn.** large, ample, big, vast, extensive
- * **Ant.** overcrowded, restricted
- ☒ Colonial mansions are commodious and have an ambience.

COMMONPLACE

found every day

- ☑ **Syn.** ordinary, mediocre
- * **Ant.** special, exceptional
- ☒ Computers are commonplace in modern offices.

COMMOTION N.

activity, ado, action, turmoil

- ☑ **Syn.** disquiet, confusion, bustle
- * **Ant.** calmness, tranquillity, serenity
- ☒ The bomb scare created a commotion in the court house.

COMMUNICABLE

transmittable

- ☑ **Syn.** contagious, infectious
- * **Ant.** incommunicable, non-transferable
- ☒ Nurses must wear surgical masks as a precaution against communicable diseases.

COMMUTE

travel, exchange, reduce penalty

- ☑ **Syn.** attenuate, curtail
- * **Ant.** increase, uphold
- ☒ His death sentence was commuted on an appeal filed by his wife.

COMPASSION N.

pity, commiseration, sympathy, forbearance, awareness and caring for others, sympathy for others' misfortunes

- ☑ **Syn.** empathy, kindness, care
- * **Ant.** coldness, chilliness, frostiness
- ☒ "I understand how difficult it must be for you to live without your parents," she said with compassion.

COMPENDIUM N.

brief summary of a larger work, abstract

- ☒ The students shouted with happiness when the teacher distributed a glossy compendium of Maths formulae just before the test.

COMPELLING

having a powerful and irresistible effect

- ☑ **Syn.** enthralling, captivating
- * **Ant.** boring, dull
- ☒ The defense lawyer's compelling arguments made the jurors sympathetic towards the accused.

COMPENSATE

to repay or reimburse

- Syn.** recompense, make amends
- The moving company had to compensate the customer for causing damage to the furniture.

COMPLACENT Adj. **COMPLACENCY** N. **COMPLACENCE** N.

satisfied with success and not trying for further improvements

- Syn.** contented, pleased with oneself
- * **Ant.** agitated, turbulent
- The complacent company soon realised that its slow pace of change had allowed its competitors to spread their tentacles.
- The Roman Empire can attribute its downfall to the complacency of its people.

COMPLAISANT Adj.

cheerfully obliging, desirous of pleasing

- A complaisant attitude reflects insincerity towards the organisation.

COMPLEMENT

to complete, perfect

- Syn.** accompaniment, adjunct
- * **Ant.** contrast, disparity
- Gita's maroon sweater complemented her golden hair perfectly.

COMPLIANT

submissive and yielding

- Syn.** acquiescent, amenable
- * **Ant.** recalcitrant, uncooperative
- The new employee was less qualified but more compliant, leading to less conflicts in the office.

COMPLICITY N.

participation or involvement in a questionable act or crime

- Syn.** responsibility, connivance
- His complicity in the sabotage case led to termination of his services.

COMPLY V., **COMPLIANCE** N.

accord, acquiesce, adhere to, agree to

- Syn.** obey, fulfill, abide by, submit
- * **Ant.** defy, contravene, violate
- Comply with the dictates of your conscience and you will never have to regret.

- The government has eased the procedure for filing tax returns but has made compliance mandatory.

COMPOSURE N.

mental calmness

- Syn.** equanimity, serenity, mixture
- * **Ant.** agitation, campaigning, protest
- You may feel nervous but don't lose your composure in front of your interviewer.

COMPOUND (adj.)

complex, composed of several parts
(n) – a mixture of two or more things

- Syn.** composite, blended
- * **Ant.** simple, synthesized
- A compound word is a combination of two or more words.

COMPRESS

to reduce, squeeze

- Syn.** condense, contract
- * **Ant.** amplify, enlarge
- The campers compressed the six-man tent into a tiny package.

COMPRISE V.

include, consist of

- Syn.** encompass, embrace, involve
- * **Ant.** exclude, bar, prohibit, prevent
- India as a nation comprises as many cultures as there are states.
- The course comprises a class book, a practice book and an audio tape.

COMPULSIVE

obsessive, fanatic

- Syn.** distraught, erratic
- * **Ant.** controlled, flexible
- A compulsive liar, Ravi claimed that he had once climbed Mount Everest with a yak on his back.

COMPUNCTION N.

A strong uneasiness caused by a sense of guilt

- Milind lacked compunction as he was seen partying after committing the crime.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. circumscribe | a. frustrate |
| 2. circumspect | b. draw a line around |
| 3. circumvent | c. cautious |
| 4. civil | d. polite |
| 5. clemency | e. mercy |

1.(b) 2.(c) 3.(a) 4.(d) 5.(e)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

CONCEDE V.

to admit reluctantly, to yield

- ☑ **Syn.** grant, allow, compromise, forfeit
- ★ **Ant.** maintain, continue, sustain
- ☒ The losing candidate conceded at midnight after the polls had closed.

CONCEIT N., CONCEITED Adj.

Holding or characterised by an unduly high opinion of oneself

- ☑ **Syn.** smug, arrogant, snobbish
- ☒ He's a conceited young man who believes he's always right about everything.

CONCEPTUALISE

to envision, imagine

- ☑ **Syn.** visualise, behold
- ☒ It was easier to conceptualise the new building than construct it.

CONCILIATORY Adj. CONCILIATION N.

reconciling, soothing

- ☑ **Syn.** appeasing, pacifying, assuaging
- ★ **Ant.** provocative, confrontational
- ☒ He took a conciliatory initiative to end the discord.

CONCLAVE N.

private meeting, secret meeting, convention

- ☑ **Syn.** assembly, council, congress
- ☒ The ministers huddled in a conclave to take the decision.

CONCOCT V., CONCOCTION N.

to prepare by mixing ingredients, as in cooking; to devise, using skill and intelligence

- ☑ **Syn.** contrive, cook-up, formulate
- ☒ This concoction will relieve you of your cold.
- ☒ Shyam concocted a story for his late arrival.

CONCOMITANT Adj., N.

accompanying, occurring along with

- ☑ **Syn.** attendant, connected, affiliated
- ★ **Ant.** unrelated, unconnected, distinct
- ☒ Social change is concomitant to economic revolution.
- ☒ If there is a shortage, there will be a concomitant rise in prices.

CONCORD

agreement, harmony

- ☑ **Syn.** pact, consensus
- ★ **Ant.** discord, disagreement
- ☒ The manager and her employees were in concord over the changes to the product.

CONCUR

to agree

- ☑ **Syn.** accede, acquiesce
- ★ **Ant.** argue, object
- ☒ When the owner suggested that there was a need to put in extra work to tide over the problem, everyone concurred.

CONDESCEND V.

to descend willingly from a superior position, to unbend

- ☑ **Syn.** stoop, deign
- ☒ I cannot believe that he could condescend to this level, just to insult me.

CONDIMENTS N.

A substance, such as a relish, vinegar, or spice, used to flavour or complement food.

- ☒ Add a couple of condiments to this bland curry and it will become delectable.

CONDOMINIUM N.

a building or complex in which units of property such as apartments are owned by individuals and common parts like roof are jointly owned; joint sovereignty

- ☒ The condominium of the communist elite is no different from their erstwhile rulers.
- ☒ The allies feared that they were pawns in a superpower condominium.

CONDONE V., CONDONATION N.

to forgive, excuse, overlook, to pardon

- ☑ **Syn.** disregard, close the eyes to
- ★ **Ant.** acknowledge, admit, recognise
- ☒ If the government is seen to condone violence, the bloodshed will never stop.

CONDUCTIVE Adj.

helpful, suitable, promoting, furthering, aiding, contributive

- ☑ **Syn.** favourable, encouraging
- ☒ A work culture conducive for learning is what management graduates need in their internship.

CONFISCATE

to appropriate, seize

- ☑ **Syn.** extract, annex
- ★ **Ant.** bequeath, relinquish
- ☒ The FBI agents confiscated the shipment and arrested the drug dealers.

CONFLAGRATION N.

a deadly and devastating fire

- ☑ **Syn.** inferno, bush fire, forest fire
- ☒ The conflagration in the UP hills has damaged the ecosystem permanently.

CONFLUENCE

gathering, meeting of two streams

- ☑ **Syn.** assemblage, merger
- ★ **Ant.** divergence, split
- ☒ Allahabad is situated at the confluence of two rivers.

CONFOUND V. confuse, puzzle

☑ **Syn.** stun, amaze, mystify, bewilder

- ☒ An elderly man from Hoogly has confounded doctors at the local hospital by getting up and walking after he was officially declared dead.

CONGEAL

to become thick or solid, as a liquid freezing

- ☑ **Syn.** coagulate, clot
- * **Ant.** dissolve, liquefy
- ☒ The melted butter congealed on the floor, forming a sticky mass.

CONGENIAL

similar in tastes and habits

- ☑ **Syn.** affable, convivial
- * **Ant.** antagonistic, unsociable
- ☒ Couples with congenial personalities stay together longer than those who are opposites.

CONGENITAL

existing since birth

- ☑ **Syn.** inherent, innate
- * **Ant.** acquired
- ☒ The infant's congenital deformity was corrected through surgery.

CONGLOMERATE

collected group of varied things

- ☑ **Syn.** aggregation, assemblage
- * **Ant.** individual, unit
- ☒ The conglomerate manufactured everything from chemicals to trucks.

CONGRESS

formal meeting or assembly

- ☑ **Syn.** convention, convocation
- * **Ant.** dispersion, disbanding
- ☒ The parties debated long into the night, but could not reach a compromise.

CONJECTURE N., V.

surmise, guess, supposition, conclusion

- ☑ **Syn.** guess, inference, speculation
- ☒ It is dangerous to act on mere conjectures.

CONJUGAL Adj.

Of or relating to marriage or the relationship of spouses

- ☒ Today's youth start enjoying conjugal bliss even prior to marriage.

CONJURE V.

summon a devil, practise magic; imagine, invent

- ☑ **Syn.** summon, call-up, involve
- ☒ A completely happy life has to be conjured up.

CONNIVE

to conspire, deliberately ignore

- ☑ **Syn.** devise, cogitate
- ☒ The customs officials were found to have connived with the smugglers.

CONNOISSEUR N.

expert, aesthete, critic, judge,

- ☑ **Syn.** authority, specialist, aficionado
- ☒ A connoisseur will be able to tell you the value of that painting you found in your attic.
- ☒ I'm no connoisseur but I know a good champagne when I taste one.

CONSCIENTIOUS Adj.

moral, honourable, right

- ☑ **Syn.** diligent, exact, meticulous
- ☒ Sheetal is an excellent student--bright, attentive and conscientious.

CONSCRIPT N., V.

draftee, person forced into military service, to draft or enlist a person by law or force

- ☑ **Syn.** recruit, enlist, enroll, rookie
- ☒ One person from a family compulsorily has to be a conscript in some countries.
- ☒ Many young men were conscripted into the army during the Indo-China war.

CONSECRATE V., Adj

to devote or declare to a sacred cause

- ☑ **Syn.** bless, anoint, baptise, purify
- ☒ The monument is consecrated to the memory of fallen heroes.
- ☒ They assembled at that consecrated spot to pray for peace.

CONSENSUS

unanimity, agreement of opinion or attitude

- ☑ **Syn.** accord, concord
- * **Ant.** discord, dissension
- ☒ The jurors finally reached a consensus and declared the defendant guilty.

CONSIGN

to commit, entrust

- ☑ **Syn.** delegate, turn over
- * **Ant.** keep, receive
- ☒ My aunt consigned her cat to the care of her neighbour while she vacationed in Kashmir.

CONSOLATION

something providing comfort or solace for a loss or hardship

- ☑ **Syn.** assuagement, alleviation
- * **Ant.** aggravation, intensification
- ☒ The millions she inherited provided little consolation to the grief-stricken widow.

CONSOLIDATE

to combine, strengthen

- ☑ **Syn.** amalgamate, fortify
- * **Ant.** shatter, fragment
- ☒ The author consolidated various articles into one book.

CONSONANCE N.

harmony, agreement, concord

- ☒ There must be consonance among all departments for the overall success of the company.

CONSORT N., V.

a companion or partner, a group or a company; to keep company, unite or associate

- ☑ **Syn.** conform, harmonise, associate
- ☒ The queen governed in consort with her advisers.
- ☒ A politician in Bihar is known to consort with gangsters.

CONSTERNATION N.

worry, concern, dismay, astonishment

- ☑ **Syn.** disquiet, alarm, anxiety
- * **Ant.** composure, equanimity
- ☒ The entire nation looked on in consternation as the twin towers collapsed.

CONSTITUENT

component, part, citizen, voter

- ☑ **Syn.** elemental, essential
- * **Ant.** aggregate, composite
- ☒ The leader was voted out of power as his constituents were unhappy with his work.

CONSTRAINED

forced, compelled, confined, restrained

- ☑ **Syn.** obligated, coerced
- * **Ant.** allowed, permitted
- ☒ The writer, constrained by the limitations his editor imposed upon him, had to cut 200 pages from his book.

CONSTRAINT

something that forces or compels, something that restrains or confines

- ☑ **Syn.** compulsion, captivity
- * **Ant.** release, liberty
- ☒ The madman was chained, but this constraint was insufficient to prevent him from injuring five persons.

CONSTRUE

to understand or interpret

- ☑ **Syn.** decipher, explicate
- * **Ant.** confuse, obfuscate
- ☒ She wasn't sure how to construe his remark but decided to consider it a compliment, for the sake of peace.

CONSUL N.

an official agent of a govt. appointed in a foreign land to take care of its citizens' interests

- ☑ **Syn.** diplomat, ambassador
- ☒ The newly appointed consul was soon beleaguered by problems.

CONSUMMATE Adj., V.**CONSUMMATION** N.

supreme, complete, perfect, of the highest quality and order, accomplished, skilled

- ☑ **Syn.** carry out, achieve, expert
- ☒ Michelangelo was a consummate artist.
- ☒ Michelle consummated the business deal quickly and left for Paris.

CONTEMPLATIVE Adj. **CONTEMPLATE** V. **CONTEMPLATION** N.

deep in thought, meditative, musing, pensive

- ☑ **Syn.** pensive, reflective, introspective
- ☒ The contemplative mood of the investors is wreaking havoc on BSE.
- ☒ Deepak sought further information in contemplation of a career change.

CONTEND

to battle, clash, compete

- ☑ **Syn.** confront, dispute
- * **Ant.** retreat, harmonise
- ☒ No boxer, past or present, would have been able to contend with Muhammad Ali in his prime.

CONTENTIOUS

quarrelsome, disagreeable

- ☑ **Syn.** belligerent, bellicose
- * **Ant.** amiable, affable
- ☒ The contentious gentleman in the bar angrily ridiculed whatever anyone said.

CONTINENCE N.

voluntarily refraining from sexual intercourse, voluntary control over urinary and fecal discharge

- ☒ In the epic Mahabharat, Bhishma vowed to lead a life of celibacy and continence.
- ☒ As men age, prostate problems can cause loss of urinary continence.

CONTINGENT Adj., N. **CONTINGENCY** N.

likely but not certain to happen, an unforeseen eventuality; fortuitousness

- ☑ **Syn.** emergency, incident, possibility
- ☒ The contingencies of life test one's mettle.
- ☒ The Indian contingent for the Olympics arrived in Rome today.

CONTORT V., **CONTORTION** N.

to twist in a violent manner

- ☑ **Syn.** warp, deform
- ☒ Even under anaesthesia, her contorted face revealed the pain she was enduring.

CONTOUR N.

outline, general character or aspect

- ☑ **Syn.** curve, line, form, outline, shape
- ☒ He studied the contour of her face, silhouetted against the darkening sky.

CONTRABAND Adj.

prohibited by law, excluded by law

- ☑ **Syn.** illegal imports
- ☒ The economic reforms led to a drop in contraband trade in India.

CONTRAVENE

to contradict, deny, act contrary to

- ☑ **Syn.** abjure, conflict
- * **Ant.** agree, approve
- ☒ The watchman contravened his official instructions by leaving his post unmanned for an hour.

CONTRITE Adj.

brokenhearted for sin, penitent, sorry, apologetic, sorrowful, regretful

- ☑ **Syn.** remorseful, repentant, penitent
- * **Ant.** unapologetic, shameless
- ☒ Her set, contrite face told him more about her misery than words could have expressed.

CONTRIVE V., **CONTRIVANCE** N.

to plan, invent, to bring about, arrange, plot

- ☑ **Syn.** engineer, plan, plot, scheme
- ☒ It is believed that ISI contrived with the militants to bring about the Charar-e-Sharif disaster.

CONTUMACIOUS Adj. **CONTUMELY** N.

obstinate, scornful, stubborn; scornful insolence

- ☒ The contumacious ways of Khrushchev and Brezhnev have contributed much to Russia's present economic condition.
- ☒ He was patient for long but the last contumely was too much to bear and he retaliated in kind.

CONUNDRUM N.

any puzzling question, a riddle

- ☑ **Syn.** enigma, quandary
- ☒ The conundrum of falling rupee has been worrying the finance ministry for long.

CONVENE

to meet, come together, assemble

- ☑ **Syn.** congregate, convoke
- * **Ant.** disperse, scatter
- ☒ The members of the board convene at least once a week.

CONVENTIONAL

typical, commonplace

- ☑ **Syn.** customary, orthodox
- * **Ant.** unorthodox, bohemian
- ☒ Conventional wisdom today says that a good job requires a college education.

CONVEX

curved outward

- ☑ **Syn.** protuberant, cambered
- * **Ant.** concave, incurvate
- ☒ The convex shape of his pot belly contrasted sharply with his wife's taut and flat stomach.

CONVICT N., V.

criminal, culprit, felon, to find or prove to be guilty

- ☑ **Syn.** offender, prisoner, condemn
- ☒ The mixing of hardened convicts with juvenile offenders is not a good idea.
- ☒ Hiren Thakur was convicted for murdering his wife.

CONVIVIAL Adj.

social, jovial, gregarious, lively, spirited, congenial

- ☑ **Syn.** welcoming, warm, cordial
- * **Ant.** unfriendly, aloof, distant, surly
- ☒ Many an executive owes his promotion to convivial spouses.

CONVOLUTED

twisted, complicated, involved

- ☑ **Syn.** serpentine, tangled
- * **Ant.** straight forward, simple
- ☒ Although many people bought 'A Brief History of Time', very few could follow its convoluted ideas and theories.

COPIOUS Adj.

sufficient, lavish, abundant, plentiful

- ☑ **Syn.** profuse, bountiful, numerous
- * **Ant.** a few, a couple, a handful, some
- ☒ I took copious notes so that I would have enough material for my term paper.

COQUETTE (KOKET) N. **COQUETTISH** Adj.

a flirting woman

- ☒ A coquette brings fun to life and brings ulcers as wife.
- ☒ The coquettish smile on Deepali's face indicates that she's only having fun with Rituraj.

CORDON V. (usually used with *off*), N.

to form a cordon around (an area) so as to prevent movement in or out

- ☒ The troops cordoned off the road leading to the president's palace.

CORNUCOPIA N.

An overflowing store; an abundance

- ☒ A cornucopia of employment opportunities exists in metropolitan cities.

CORONER N.

an officer who inquires into accidental or suspicious deaths

- ☒ In many a murder case only the coroner's report is crucial.

CORPOREAL Adj.

something physical or concrete, tangible, material, substantial

- ☑ **Syn.** bodily, animal
- * **Ant.** cerebral, psychological
- ☒ The spiritual rewards of success far outweigh the corporeal ones.
- ☒ His corporeal needs were few – food and physical comforts meant nothing to him.

CORPULENT Adj., **CORPULENCE** N.

very fat, obese, chubby

- ☑ **Syn.** fleshy, rotund, plump, podgy
- * **Ant.** slim, thin, slender, slight, wiry
- ☒ The police commissioner has decided not to put up with corpulent men among officers.

CORRELATION

association, relationship between two or more things

- ☑ **Syn.** connection, association
- ☒ All too often, there is little correlation between a man's wealth and his intelligence.

CORROBORATE V., CORROBORATOR N.

to confirm, to make more certain, to ratify, to support

- ☑ **Syn.** agree with, substantiate, uphold
- * **Ant.** contradict, gainsay, challenge
- ☒ It is one thing to accuse, another to corroborate it.

CORRUGATE V.

to wrinkle or draw into folds

- ☒ Time corrugates the most beautiful of faces.

COSMETIC

relating to beauty, affecting the surface of something

- ☑ **Syn.** beautifying, superficial
- * **Ant.** fundamental, structural
- ☒ Cosmetic surgery such as a nose job is generally not covered by insurance.

COSMOPOLITAN

belonging to all the world, sophisticated, free from local prejudices

- ☑ **Syn.** international, multiracial
- * **Ant.** provincial, unsophisticated
- ☒ What the world needs today is a cosmopolitan outlook rather than narrow racial groupings.

COTERIE N.

a social, literary or politically exclusive circle, clique, a distinct group of people with common interests, faction

- ☒ Many of the political blunders of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi are now attributed to his coterie.

COUNTENANCE N., V.

appearance, especially the expression on the face; to give approval to, tolerate

- ☒ The question left him with a puzzled countenance.
- ☒ The Governess refused to countenance Shilpi's insolence.

CULL V., N.

to pick out from others; select, to remove rejected members or parts from (a herd, for example)

- ☒ This author has culled the best questions from various books and compiled them into a new exercise book.

CULVERT N.

a transverse and totally enclosed drain under a road or railway

- ☒ The road contact with Shimla was lost as the culverts alongway were overflowing.

COUNTERMAND V.

to give an order cancelling the previous one, to revoke

- ☑ **Syn.** cancel, stop, annul, retract
- ☒ The supreme court has the authority to countermand a decision of the lower courts.

COUP (KOO) N.

a master stroke, a sudden blow or stroke

- ☑ **Syn.** overthrow, revolution, takeover
- ☒ The politics of coups is the bane of infant democracies of Africa.
- ☒ The company pulled off a coup when the product launch party was graced by the prime minister himself.

COUPE N.

a carriage with seating arrangements; a car with a fixed roof, two doors and usually a sloping back

- ☑ **Syn.** car, auto, vehicle, sports car
- ☒ I had reserved a coupe in the train.

COVENANT N.

a mutual agreement

- ☑ **Syn.** contract, treaty, promise, pledge
- ☒ The covenants of law ought to be respected for sake of social order and harmony.

COVERT Adj.

covered, concealed, secret, hidden

- ☑ **Syn.** clandestine, stealthy, veiled
- * **Ant.** open, unlock, unbolt, exposed
- ☒ The murdered soldier belonged to an army unit which specialises in covert operations.

COVET V., COVETOUS Adj.

to wish for enviously; very desirous of something, avaricious, greedy

- ☑ **Syn.** envious, jealous
- ☒ The covetous politician can hardly formulate a long-term policy of growth and development.
- ☒ My daughters are very competitive and covet each other's jobs.

COWER V.

to sink due to fear, to crouch shrinkingly, to cringe in fear

- ☑ **Syn.** cringe, tremble, recoil, shy away
- ☒ The most corrupt politician cowers at the mere mention of a public interest litigation against him.

COY Adj., COYLY Adv.

marked by cute, coquettish, or artful playfulness

- ☑ **Syn.** bashful, timid, modest, demure
- * **Ant.** bold, shameless, audacious
- ☒ There is often strong emotional maturity behind the coy demeanour of a woman.
- ☒ Geetika acted coyly when we asked her about her fiancé.

CRASS Adj.

very unrefined, grossly insensible

- ☑ **Syn.** tactless, stupid, inane, ridiculous
- * **Ant.** sensitive, receptive, perceptive
- ☒ Crass consumerism has affected the elite most.
- ☒ He made crass comments about her worn-out dress even though he knew she couldn't afford to buy any more clothes.

CRAVEN

cowardly, lily-livered

- ☑ **Syn.** faint-hearted, timid
- * **Ant.** brave, courageous
- ☒ The craven lion looked funny, cringing in a corner, away from the mouse.

CRAVING N.

desire, hunger, longing, lust

- ☑ **Syn.** passion, thirst, yearning, yen
- * **Ant.** hatred, aversion, dislike
- ☒ Sometimes Neeta has a craving for chocolates.

CREDIBLE Adj., CREDIBILITY N.

which may be believed

- ☑ **Syn.** convincing, plausible
- * **Ant.** incredible, enormous
- ☒ They haven't produced any credible policies for improving the situation.
- ☒ The company lost credibility in the market after it was fined for evading taxes.

CREDITABLE Adj.

praiseworthy, trustworthy

- ☑ **Syn.** good, worthy, laudable
- * **Ant.** poor, deprived, reduced, pitiable
- ☒ Pele's performance as a football player had been creditable.

CREDULOUS

gullible, trusting

- ☑ **Syn.** naive, ingenuous
- * **Ant.** worldly-wise, suspicious
- ☒ Although small children believe in the Easter Bunny, only the most credulous teenagers do so.

CREED

statement of belief or principle

- ☑ **Syn.** doctrine, dogma, faith
- ☒ It was part of the old man's creed to cook his own food.

CREME DE LA CREME (French)

the best of the elite, the very best

- ☒ The creme de la creme of society were present at the classical music concert.
- ☒ When it came to winning quiz contests, our class was considered the creme de la creme.

CRESCENDO N.

a gradual increase in the intensity of a thing

- ☑ **Syn.** upsurge, swelling, loudening
- ☒ The demand for reservation of 33 per cent seats of Indian Parliament for women is now reaching a crescendo.

CRESTFALLEN Adj.

dejected, dispirited

- ☑ **Syn.** disappointed, down, sad
- * **Ant.** cheerful, happy, jovial, merry
- ☒ Saurav strode confidently out on to the pitch but returned crestfallen a few minutes later, with a score of only two runs.

CREVICE N.

an opening crack, fissure, clink, division

- ☑ **Syn.** gap, cleft, fracture, cranny
- ☒ The harsh light revealed every crevice and wrinkle on his face.

CRINGE V.

shrink back, as if in fear

- ☑ **Syn.** recoil, wince, shy away, cower
- ☒ We all cringed at her ribald jokes.

CRITERION

standard for judging, rule for testing

- ☑ **Syn.** benchmark, yardstick
- ☒ Only recently has intelligence become an important criterion in judging beauty pageants.

CROTCHET N., CROTCHETY Adj.

a fancy, a whim, an eccentricity

- ☒ The facade of a crotchety old man stood Hercules Poirot, the detective, in good stead.

CRUCIFY V., CRUCIFIXION N.

to put to death on a cross, to torment, to subdue

- ☒ Humanity has always crucified its great only to venerate them later on.
- ☒ Calgary is the site just outside Jerusalem where the crucifixion of Christ took place.

CRUMPLE V.

to crush into irregular wrinkles

- ☑ **Syn.** crease, crinkle, crush, screw up
- * **Ant.** smooth, flat, level, even, soft
- ☒ Sylvie crumpled up the letter and threw it in the bin.

CRYOGENICS N.

branch of Physics dealing with very low temperature phenomena

- ☒ Indians were surprised at Russia's reluctance to share the Cryogenic engine technology with them.

CRYPTIC Adj.

hidden, mysteriously obscure, secret, unseen

- ☑ **Syn.** puzzling, baffling
- * **Ant.** exoteric, easy
- ☒ Archaeologists have deciphered the most cryptic of all ancient languages.

CUISINE – characteristic style of cooking

- ☑ **Syn.** cookery
- ☒ The Mexican cuisine is spicy and tangy.

CUL-DE-SAC N.

a blind alley, a trap

- ☑ **Syn.** dead end, blind alley
- ☒ Beware! Your reckless ambition may lead you to a cul-de-sac.

CULINARY Adj.

pertaining to the kitchen or cookery

- ☑ **Syn.** cooking, gastronomic
- ☒ The culinary expertise of the chef made him pricey.

CULMINATE V., **CULMINATION** N.

to reach the highest point

- ☑ **Syn.** end, terminate, conclude, finish
- * **Ant.** start, create, found, establish
- ☒ Their many years of research have finally culminated in a cure for Hepatitis B.

CULPABLE Adj.

criminal, faulty, censurable, reproachable

- ☑ **Syn.** guilty, blameworthy, liable
- * **Ant.** innocent, guiltless, naive, pure
- ☒ Sheltering a criminal is a culpable offence.

CULPRIT

guilty person

- ☑ **Syn.** miscreant, offender
- ☒ The police caught the culprit right outside the bakery, eating the stolen doughnut.

CULT N.

an unorthodox or false religion, a fad, excessive admiration of an idea

- ☑ **Syn.** sect, party, trendy, craze
- ☒ The Osho cult still has a tremendous following.

CUMULATIVE Adj., **CUMULATE** V., **CUMULATION** N.

growing by addition

- ☑ **Syn.** increasing, snowballing, swelling
- ☒ Growing rich is a cumulative process, wise and regular investments bring in compounded benefits.

CUPIDITY N.

covetousness, greed, avarice

- ☑ **Syn.** selfishness, meanness, avidity
- ☒ His success in business is largely due to his cupidity.

CURATOR

caretaker and overseer of an exhibition, especially in a museum

- ☒ The curator resigned when he could no longer bear begging for donations to keep the museum open.

CURSORY

hastily done, superficial

- ☑ **Syn.** perfunctory, rapid
- * **Ant.** thorough, painstaking
- ☒ The copy editor gave the article a cursory glance, missing dozens of errors.

CURTAIL

to shorten, diminish

- ☑ **Syn.** reduce, pare
- * **Ant.** increase, lengthen
- ☒ I had to curtail my vacation because I ran out of money.

CUTLERY

cutting instruments, tableware

- ☒ The restaurant was notorious for not washing its cutlery properly.

CYNICAL Adj., **CYNIC** N.

misanthropic, disbelieving, distrustful, sceptical

- ☑ **Syn.** pessimistic, mocking, sarcastic
- ☒ Modern youth tends to be cynical.
- ☒ I've always abhorred cynics in my team because they demoralise everyone.

CYNOSURE N.

the focal point or centre of attraction

- ☒ Media plays a very big role in making a Kalpana Chawla or a Diana Hayden the cynosure of all eyes.

Anthropology

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

ANDROID	:	a robot with a human appearance
BIBELOT	:	a small item of rarity, beauty, or curiosity, relic; artifact
CONSANGUINITY	:	relationship by blood
MIDDEN	:	a dunghill or refuse heap
NOMAD	:	a person who moves about in a seasonal pattern, especially in search of work and usually without a fixed home
PETROGLYPH	:	a prehistoric carving or drawing on stone
RITE	:	a formal ceremonial act or procedure, often part of solemn religious occasions
SHIBBOLETH	:	a custom, principle or belief distinguishing a particular class or group of people.
TOTEM	:	an object of animal with which a tribe, clan or group of people identify in its rituals
VENDETTA	:	a private feud in which kin are obliged to seek revenge for wrongs done to relatives

“D”

DABBLER N.

neophyte, beginner

- ☑ **Syn.** amateur, dilettante
- * **Ant.** adept, professional
- ☒ The dabblers of yore are today the serious players of share market.

DAINTY Adj.

pleasant to the palate, tasteful; small, dwarfish, petite

- ☑ **Syn.** charming, lilliputian, delicate
- ☒ We were given tea and some dainty cakes.

DALLY V., DALLIANCE N.

to lose time by idleness; playful flirtation

- ☑ **Syn.** hand about, dawdle, loiter
- * **Ant.** hurry, rush, hasten, speed
- ☒ The government is dallying over the issue of privatisation of telecommunication.
- ☒ Her dalliance at work place resulted in her removal from the job.

DANGLE V.

to hang loosely or with a swinging motion

- ☑ **Syn.** hand down, suspend, droop
- ☒ He dangled the puppet in front of the children.

DANK Adj.

damp

- ☑ **Syn.** moist, humid, soggy, wet
- ☒ The rooms of the village school are dank and dirty.

DASTARDLY Adj., DASTARD N.

cowardly

- ☑ **Syn.** shameful, immoral, base, low
- * **Ant.** dignified, righteous
- ☒ The bombing of the houses is yet another dastardly attack on innocent people.

DAUB V., N.

to paint carelessly, to smear

- ☑ **Syn.** spread, slap, apply, splatter
- ☒ A canvas daubed with paint is often passed off as modern art.

DAUNT V.

to frighten, to subdue, to lessen the courage of, to cow

- ☑ **Syn.** deter, discourage
- * **Ant.** arouse, awaken
- ☒ The daunting inflation rate had the finance minister worried.

DAZE V., N.

to stun, to stupefy, to confuse

- ☑ **Syn.** shock, astound, bemuse, baffle
- ☒ The drop in BSE sensex has dazed the economic pundits.
- ☒ She was wandering around in a daze after she got the highest marks in the university.

DEARTH

lack, insufficiency

- ☑ **Syn.** scarcity, shortage
- * **Ant.** abundance, surfeit
- ☒ The dearth of supplies was proving to be a greater threat than the firepower of the enemy.

DEBACLE N.

a complete break up or collapse or failure

- ☑ **Syn.** disaster, undoing, cataclysm
- * **Ant.** success, accomplishment
- ☒ Liberalisation may prove to be a debacle in countries that do not give it a sustained and consistent push backed up by regular policy reforms and political will.

DEBASE

to degrade or lower in quality or stature

- ☑ **Syn.** demean, humiliate
- * **Ant.** dignify, ennoble
- ☒ The president's shameful actions debased the stature of his office.

DEBAUCH

to corrupt, mislead from virtue or duty

- ☑ **Syn.** indulge in, degenerate
- * **Ant.** straighten up, redeem
- ☒ After the unscrupulous count debauched the minister, the conspiracy against the king began to take shape.

DEBILITATE

to weaken, enfeeble

- ☑ **Syn.** enervate, devitalise
- * **Ant.** strengthen, invigorate
- ☒ Debilitated by the flu, the postman was barely able to finish his rounds.

DEBONAIR Adj.

elegant, courteous, of a good appearance

- ☑ **Syn.** suave, smart, refined, charming
- * **Ant.** graceless, clumsy, ungainly
- ☒ The debonair actor was very popular among girls.

DEBRIS (*DAYBREE*) N.

wreckage, ruins, rubbish, garbage, waste

- ☑ **Syn.** remains, fragments, rubble, trash
- ☒ The car was buried in the debris which the landslide had swept down the hill and this made recovery very difficult.

DEBUNK V.

expose as false, exaggerated, worthless

- ☑ **Syn.** show up, deflate, discredit
- ☒ Ramer Pillai's claim to generate petrol from plants was debunked finally.

DEBUTANTE

young woman making first formal entry into high society

- ⊗ The debutante spent hours dressing for her first ball.

DECEITFUL Adj.

crafty, cunning, dishonest

- ☑ **Syn.** deceiving, fraudulent, devious
- * **Ant.** honest, truthful, sincere, candid
- ⊗ The deceitful looks on his face made me wary of the proposal.

DECIDUOUS

losing leaves in the fall, short-lived, temporary

- * **Ant.** evergreen
- ⊗ Deciduous trees are bare in winter.

DECIPHER V.

to decode

- ☑ **Syn.** interpret, translate, crack
- ⊗ Only a chemist can decipher a doctor's handwriting.

DECLIVITY N.

a place that declines or slopes downwards

- ⊗ The hill people utilise the declivity of land for setting up water mills.

DECOR N.

general decorative effect of a room, scenery

- ☑ **Syn.** furnishings, interior decoration
- ⊗ Red seats and cream walls may not be the most elegant decor but it's a friendly pub.

DECOROUS

proper, tasteful, socially correct

- ☑ **Syn.** mannerly, dignified
- * **Ant.** indecorous, immodest
- ⊗ He was always very decorous in the company of women.

DECORUM

proper behavior, propriety

- ☑ **Syn.** etiquette, modesty
- * **Ant.** impropriety, immodesty
- ⊗ The way he handled the fork and knife, it was clear that he lacked the decorum to fit into high society.

DECOY N.

an animal, person or thing used to entrap a victim

- ☑ **Syn.** lure, trap, snare, distraction, bait
- ⊗ They used a girl hitchhiker as the decoy to get him to stop.

DECREE N.

a judicial decision, an order by an authority

- ☑ **Syn.** ruling, verdict, announcement
- ⊗ Ayatollahs' decree to assassinate Rushdie made life difficult for the author.

DECREPIT Adj.

worn out from ages or overuse, weak, dilapidated, run-down

- ☑ **Syn.** old, feeble, frail, weak, infirm
- * **Ant.** hearty, vigorous, energetic, vital
- ⊗ A decrepit old man sat on a park bench.
- ⊗ No one should have to live in a house that's so run-down and decrepit.

DECRY

to belittle, openly condemn

- ☑ **Syn.** disprove, berate
- * **Ant.** approve, appreciate
- ⊗ Governments all over the world decry the dictator's vicious massacre of helpless peasants.

DEFAMATORY

slandorous, injurious to reputation

- ☑ **Syn.** libellous, malicious
- * **Ant.** complimentary, esteemed
- ⊗ The tabloid was sued for making defamatory statements about the celebrity.

DEFECTION N.

desertion

- ⊗ His defection from the charity resulted in a drop in the trust's projections.
- ⊗ Recent changes in policy have resulted in large-scale defection from the party.

DEFENDANT

person required to answer a legal action or suit

- ☑ **Syn.** appellant, accused
- * **Ant.** plaintiff
- ☒ The defendant sat impassively as witness after witness described the dreadful crimes she had committed.

DEFERENCE N.

respectful compliance, submission, devotion, esteem

- ☑ **Syn.** regard, reverence, admiration
- * **Ant.** contempt, disrepute, insolence
- ☒ She covered her head out of deference to the custom at that place of worship.

DEFERENTIAL

respectful and polite in a submissive way

- ☑ **Syn.** courteous, humble
- * **Ant.** arrogant, rude
- ☒ The clerk treated the Supreme Court order very deferentially.

DEFIANT Adj. DEFIANCE N.

disobedient, insubordinate, mutinous

- ☑ **Syn.** insolent, rebellious, bold
- * **Ant.** compliant, biddable, submissive
- ☒ A defiant Jack Welch went about restructuring the behemoth corporation called GE.

DEFINITIVE

clear-cut, explicit, reliable

- ☑ **Syn.** conclusive, ultimate
- * **Ant.** provisional, unauthoritative
- ☒ '*Trains at a glance*' is a definitive guide for every railway passenger.

DEFILE V.

to pollute, corrupt, sully, besmirch

- ☑ **Syn.** taint, debase, corrupt, debauch
- ☒ Many people believe that the operation to flush out the terrorists was a deliberate defiling of the place of worship.

DEFLATION

decrease, depreciation

- ☑ **Syn.** devaluation, reduction
- * **Ant.** inflation, rise
- ☒ The deflation of the currency resulted in financial disaster for many ordinary Russians.

DEFORM

to disfigure, distort

- ☑ **Syn.** misshape, cripple
- * **Ant.** shape, boost
- ☒ Bipasha shrieked at the sight of the deformed features of the circus freak.

DEFT Adj.

neat, skillful

- ☑ **Syn.** adroit, clever, nifty, nimble
- * **Ant.** clumsy, ungainly, maladroit
- ☒ The deft welder fixed the broken shaft so well that it does not seem to have broken at all.

DEFUNCT Adj.

dead, no longer in use or existence

- ☑ **Syn.** obsolete, invalid, redundant
- * **Ant.** present, existing, recent, modern
- ☒ The credit cooperative society which functioned so well is now defunct.

DEGENERATE V., DEGENERATIVE Adj.

become worse, deteriorate, to sink into a lower or less useful state

- ☑ **Syn.** disintegrate, collapse, relapse
- * **Ant.** improve, get better, recover
- ☒ The debate quickly degenerated into a shouting match.
- ☒ Suffering from a degenerative brain disease, he asked for euthanasia.

DEITY N.

god, goddess, divinity, idol

- ☑ **Syn.** holy being
- ☒ For many, worshipping a deity is more important than finding employment.

DELECTABLE Adj., N, DELECTABILITY N.

delightful, pleasing, delicious

- ☑ **Syn.** appetising, exquisite
- ☒ The delectable performance by the child-artist enthralled many.
- ☒ When I return from my business trips, I love to feast on home-cooked delectables.

DELIBERATE V. DELIBERATE Adj.

consider, debate, meditate, mull, contemplate, plan, intentional, calculated, contrived, conscious

- ☑ **Syn.** reflect, think, weigh up, ponder, purposeful, premeditated
- * **Ant.** unintentional, unplanned
- ☒ I've been deliberating all morning and I still can't decide what to do.
- ☒ A deliberate act of sabotage has been unearthed in the computer department.

DELEGATE (v)

to give powers to another, entrust

(n) – representative, envoy

- ☑ **Syn.** assign, depute
- * **Ant.** cling to power, disable
- ☒ After learning to delegate more work to his assistants, the manager reduced his stress level significantly.

DELINEATION N., DELINEATE V.

the act of representing pictorially

- ☑ **Syn.** portrayal, characterisation
- ☒ We sat for hours with the architect as she delineated each aspect of our proposed office complex.

DELINQUENT Adj., N.

failing in duty

- ☑ **Syn.** criminal, aberrant, offending
- * **Ant.** honest, straight, peaceable
- ☒ The delinquent behaviour of insurance employees has stalled reforms in the insurance sector.
- ☒ People disagree over whether juvenile delinquents should be punished or helped.

DELIRIOUS Adj., **DELIRIUM** N.

wandering in mind, insane; state of extreme happiness

- ☑ **Syn.** deranged, maniacal, raving
- ☒ Sophie had a high temperature and was delirious all last night.
- ☒ Preeti has been in a state of delirium since Rohit asked her out.

DELTA

tidal deposit at the mouth of a river, a Greek alphabet

- ☒ The delta of a river is a very impressive aerial sight.

DELUDE V., **DELUSION** N.

to deceive, to cause to accept what is false as true

- ☑ **Syn.** deceive, cheat, con, fool, trick
- ☒ The thieves deluded the old lady into thinking that they were telephone engineers.
- ☒ Simon laboured under the delusion that success was at hand.

DELUGE N., V.

a flood, an excessive overflow; to inundate

- ☑ **Syn.** torrent, surfeit, overabundance
- * **Ant.** drought, dearth, famine
- ☒ A deluge of fan mail irked Britney Spears.

DELVE V.

to make deep research, probe, investigate, inquire

- ☑ **Syn.** research, dig
- * **Ant.** scan, browse through
- ☒ Some historians have delved deep into the past trying to unearth mysteries related to the evolution of man.

DEMARCATIION

borderline, act of defining or marking a boundary or distinction

- ☑ **Syn.** separation, delimitation
- ☒ The Berlin Wall formed a clear demarcation between East and West Germany.

DEMEANOUR N.

behaviour of a person, conduct, behaviour, comportment, bearing

- ☑ **Syn.** manner, conduct, character
- ☒ She has the demeanour of a woman who is content with her life.

DEMOGRAPHICS

study or data relating to human population

- ☒ Demographics seem to indicate that the population of the world will double within the foreseeable future.

DEMOLISH V., **DEMOLITION** N.

destroy, raze, nullify, overthrow

- ☑ **Syn.** knock down, bulldoze, flatten
- * **Ant.** build, construct, erect, make
- ☒ The Australian pace attack demolished the Kiwi batting line-up for just 87 runs.
- ☒ The demolition squad of municipal corporation has taken up the task of removing encroachments.

DEMOTE

to reduce to a lower grade or rank

- ☑ **Syn.** downgrade, humiliate
- * **Ant.** promote, aggrandise
- ☒ The army will demote any soldier who disobeys orders.

DEMUR

to express doubts or objections

- ☑ **Syn.** protest, dissent
- * **Ant.** accept, agree
- ☒ Mr Seth demurred when the suggestion was put to him.

DEMURE Adj.

sober, modest, staid, calm, undisturbed

- ☑ **Syn.** sedate, reserved, shy, retiring
- * **Ant.** bold, brave, daring, courageous
- ☒ A Miss World candidate must know how to be demure.
- ☒ She gave him a demure smile.

DENIGRATE V.

to defame, asperse, degrade, deprecate

- ☑ **Syn.** disparage, belittle, malign
- * **Ant.** praise, admire, extol, eulogise
- ☒ I was very hurt when he denigrated my efforts.

DENIZEN N.

inhabitant

- ☑ **Syn.** occupant, resident, dweller
- ☒ Dimple is one of the longer-serving denizens of the accounts department.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1. debilitate | a. flood |
| 2. decorous | b. express disapproval of |
| 3. definitive | c. conclusive |
| 4. deluge | d. weaken |
| 5. deprecate | e. proper |

1.(d) 2.(e) 3.(c) 4.(a) 5.(b)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

DENOUEMENT N.

the outcome of a sequence of events, the end result

- ☑ **Syn.** conclusion, finale, completion
- * **Ant.** start, create, found, establish
- ☒ The denouement in Shakespeare's tragedies have a cathartic effect on the audience.
- ☒ The 'Tehelka' denouement was strikingly unexpected.

DENOUNCE

to accuse, blame

- ☑ **Syn.** condemn, criticise
- * **Ant.** praise, appreciate
- ☒ Shalini denounced her coworkers for stealing pencils from the office.

DENUDE

to make bare, uncover, undress

- ☑ **Syn.** strip, expose
- * **Ant.** cover, shroud
- ☒ The mountain was completely denuded by uncontrolled logging.

DEplete V.

to empty, reduce, exhaust, drain

- ☑ **Syn.** drain, diminish, lessen
- * **Ant.** increase, augment, amplify
- ☒ With all emergency grain supplies depleted, the nation was headed towards famine.

DEPLORE V., DEPLORABLE Adj.

to regret, to lament, bemoan

- ☑ **Syn.** condemn, criticise, deprecate
- * **Ant.** approve, support, commend
- ☒ Even though I deplore the CEO's decision, I'll have to accept it.
- ☒ The inmates in Tihar jail live in deplorable housing conditions.

DEPLOY

to spread out strategically over an area, dispel

- ☑ **Syn.** arrange, disband
- * **Ant.** gather, garner
- ☒ The general deployed his troops all over the region, overwhelming the enemy through sheer numbers.

DEPOSE

to remove from a high position

- ☑ **Syn.** overthrow, overturn
- * **Ant.** crown, empower
- ☒ After being deposed from his throne, the king spent the rest of his life in exile.

DEPRAVITY N.

amorality, debauchery, degeneracy, perversion

- ☑ **Syn.** corruption, evil, decadence
- * **Ant.** goodness, decency, honesty
- ☒ The depravity of the men running Hitler's concentration camps was unimaginable.

DEPREdATION N., DEPREDATE V.

state of being ravaged, act of plundering

- ☑ **Syn.** ravages, devastation, havoc
- ☒ Depredation of the forests is destroying hundreds of species each year.

DEPRECATE

to belittle, disparage

- ☑ **Syn.** disapprove of, deplore
- * **Ant.** praise, overrate
- ☒ Anand deprecated his own contribution, and highlighted the efforts of his coworkers.

DEPRECIATE

to lose value gradually

- ☑ **Syn.** devalue, cheapen
- * **Ant.** appreciate, raise
- ☒ Tax laws allow a fixed rate of depreciation on assets.

DERELICT Adj., N.

forsaken, abandoned, neglected; a destitute homeless social misfit

- ☑ **Syn.** dilapidated, ruined, vagrant
- ☒ Having lost his possessions in betting, Farhan now lives the life of a derelict.
- ☒ There are plans to redevelop the derelict building near the station.

DERIDE V., DERISION N., DERISIVE Adj.

to laugh at, to mock, to treat scornfully

- ☑ **Syn.** scoff, put down, mock, scorn
- * **Ant.** approve, agree, commend
- ☒ I was derided for making such a stupid suggestion.
- ☒ Dressed in a short skirt, Rupali became an object of derision among her friends.

DERIVE

to take from a certain source

- ☑ **Syn.** procure, acquire
- * **Ant.** originate, cause
- ☒ Maple syrup is derived from the sap of maple trees.

DERMATOLOGIST N., DERMATOLOGY N.

one who studies the skin and its diseases

- ☒ You need not consult dermatologists for each and every skin problem; a good beautician can do the job as well.

DEROGATE

to belittle, disparage

- ☑ **Syn.** denigrate, discredit
- * **Ant.** praise, applaud
- ☒ The sarcastic old man never stopped derogating the efforts of his daughter, even after she won the Nobel Prize.

DEROGATORY Adj.

detracting, injurious, disparaging, belittling, negatively critical

- ☑ **Syn.** insulting, offensive, deprecating
- * **Ant.** complimentary, admiring, kind
- ☒ Writers usually welcome helpful criticism but derogatory remarks tend to put them on the defence.

DESCRY

to discover by the eye, to spot or perceive

- ☒ The famous Amarnath cave was described by a Muslim shepherd who had lost his way.
- ☒ I descried a ray of hope in her words.

DESECRATE V.

to treat sacrilegiously, to defile or profane something sacred or very special

- ☒ **Syn.** damage, vandalise, despoil
- * **Ant.** consecrate, sanctify, make holy
- ☒ It's a crime to desecrate the country's flag.

DESOLATE Adj., DESOLATION N.

lonely, comfortless, having no inhabitants, deserted, barren, lifeless

- ☒ **Syn.** isolated, bleak, wild, barren
- * **Ant.** populous, full of people, packed
- ☒ The house looked out over a bleak and desolate landscape.
- ☒ Two years of continuous drought brought desolation to the region.

DESPISE V., DESPICABLE Adj.

deride, disdain, look down on

- ☒ **Syn.** hate, abhor, loathe, scorn
- * **Ant.** love, revere, respect
- ☒ She despised him for the way he treated her sister.
- ☒ One cannot be a despicable rogue and dream of social acceptance.

DESPONDENCY N., DESPONDENT Adj.

a feeling of dejection, despair or hopelessness

- ☒ **Syn.** sadness, misery, depression
- * **Ant.** Cheerfulness, joyfulness, cheer
- ☒ The large-scale destruction filled the populace with a spirit of despondency.

DESPOTISM N., DESPOT N.

dictatorship, tyranny, autocracy

- ☒ **Syn.** absolutism
- * **Ant.** democracy, equality, consensus
- ☒ In the French Revolution, the Bastille was a symbol of the despotism of the monarchy.

DESTITUTE Adj., DESTITUTION N.

entirely lacking in, very poor, indigent, poverty stricken

- ☒ **Syn.** impoverished, insolvent, needy
- * **Ant.** in the black, in the chips
- ☒ The destitute refugees of Bosnia looked to the UN for help.
- ☒ Continued destitution can lead one to move towards crime.

DESULTORY Adj.

jumping from one thing to another, without any rational connection, without set plan, random, haphazard, casual

- ☒ **Syn.** unfocussed, indiscriminate
- * **Ant.** methodical, systematic, precise
- ☒ Research requires scientific method and not a desultory approach.

DETAIN V., DETENTION N.

retain, keep, hold, grasp

- ☒ **Syn.** arrest, capture, confine, control
- * **Ant.** release, free, discharge, liberate
- ☒ The customs detained the lady due to suspicion of smuggling.
- ☒ While in detention, I pondered over my criminal career and felt remorseful.

DETER V., DETERRENT N., Adj.

to hinder or prevent

- ☒ **Syn.** daunt, dissuade, prevent
- * **Ant.** encourage, cheer, persuade
- ☒ A dog deters the thieves from attempting a theft.
- ☒ A nuclear bomb is usually just a deterrent and not intended for actual use.

DETERMINE

having defined limits, conclusive

- ☒ **Syn.** fixed, quantified
- * **Ant.** indeterminate, vague
- ☒ The priest violated the determinate rules of caste by shaking hands with the sweeper.

DETONATION N., DETONATE V.

explosion

- ☒ **Syn.** ignition, discharge, blast, bang
- ☒ India detonated an underground nuclear device at Pokharan.
- ☒ The aircraft blew apart after the detonation of a bomb disguised as a radio.

DETOUR N., V.

diversion, digression, excursion

- ☒ **Syn.** deviation, alternative route
- ☒ The trains had to detour due to the accident.

DETRIMENTAL

causing harm or injury

- ☒ **Syn.** injurious, ruinous
- * **Ant.** benign, beneficial
- ☒ It is well known that cigarette smoking is detrimental to health.

DEVIATE

to stray, wander

- ☒ **Syn.** drift, digress
- * **Ant.** conform, stay on course
- ☒ As long as you don't deviate from the trail, you should be back in the camp before sunset.

DEVIOUS Adj., DEVIOUSNESS N.

indirect, roundabout, strayed, cunning

- ☒ **Syn.** deceitful, tricky, designing, wily
- * **Ant.** straightforward, clear cut
- ☒ We knew from Greg's devious behaviour that he was planning a surprise.
- ☒ You have to be a bit devious if you're going to succeed in business.

DEVOUR V., DEVOURING Adj.

to swallow greedily, to eat up

- ☑ **Syn.** consume, get through, demolish
- ☒ The booming industrialisation has devoured the agricultural land.

DEXTEROUS Adj., DEXTERITY N.

skillful, adroit, deft, adept

- ☑ **Syn.** handy, nimble, agile
- * **Ant.** gauche, clumsy, all thumbs
- ☒ A dexterous plastic surgeon would be much in demand.
- ☒ Her dexterity in mathematical calculations amazes many.

DIABOLIC or DIABOLICAL Adj.

wicked, like a devil, extremely unpleasant, very bad

- ☒ The diabolic plans to capture power did not succeed.
- ☒ With a diabolical smile, Shanker advanced towards a cowering Sangeeta.

DIALECTIC N.

the art or practice of arriving at the truth by the exchange of logical arguments

- ☒ The dialectic is a formal method of argument, in which new positions are reached by testing opposing views against one another.

DIATRIBE N.

a continued discourse, a long bitter speech,

- ☑ **Syn.** tirade, invective, harangue, rant
- ☒ After dinner he launched into a long diatribe against the government's policies.

DICHOTOMY

division into two parts

- ☑ **Syn.** split, disjunction
- ☒ Movies often show a simple dichotomy between good guys and bad guys.

DICTION N.

something said, a saying, an authoritative saying, dictat

- ☑ **Syn.** maxim, motto, cliché, truism
- ☒ He has always followed the famous American dictum, 'don't get mad, get even'.

DIDACTIC

excessively instructive

- ☑ **Syn.** doctrinal, heuristic
- ☒ The father was overly didactic with his children, turning every activity into a lesson.

DIFFERENTIATE

to distinguish between two items

- ☑ **Syn.** discriminate, discern
- ☒ Navin hoped that his fiancée would not be able to differentiate between a real diamond ring and the ring he had bought her.

DIFFIDENT Adj., DIFFIDENCE N.

not self-confident, lacking self confidence, shy, unassertive

- ☑ **Syn.** unsure, indecisive
- * **Ant.** confident, sure, dashing
- ☒ Diffidence is sure to mar your chances of selection in the interview.
- ☒ There's no need to be so diffident about your achievements – you've done really well!

DIFFUSION N., DIFFUSE V.

wordiness; spreading in all directions like a gas

- ☑ **Syn.** dispersion, distribution, flow
- ☒ Your painting suffered from a diffusion of lines.
- ☒ He was one of the first scientists to study the process of diffusion in gases.

DIGRESS V., DIGRESSION N.

to depart from the main subject

- ☑ **Syn.** deviate, wander, stray, ramble
- ☒ The lecturer temporarily digressed from what she was saying to answer a question.

DILAPIDATED Adj.

ruined because of neglect

- ☑ **Syn.** decrepit, decaying, ramshackle
- * **Ant.** pristine, immaculate, unspoiled
- ☒ It needs no pointing out to the authorities that be, that our historical buildings are dilapidated.

DILATORY Adj., DILATE V.

slow, given to procrastination, tardy; to expand

- ☑ **Syn.** remise, slack, negligent, lagging
- * **Ant.** prompt, punctual, quick
- ☒ In the era of TQM there is no place for dilatory attitudes.
- ☒ The ophthalmologist instilled a few drops of the medicine to dilate the patient's pupils.

DILETTANTE N.

a dabbler in art, science or literature, an amateur, novice, neophyte

- ☑ **Syn.** amateur, dabbler
- ☒ He's a bit of a dilettante as far as wine selection is concerned.

DILIGENT Adj., DILIGENCE N.

steady and earnest in application, industrious, assiduous

- ☑ **Syn.** hard working, meticulous
- * **Ant.** lazy, indolent, idle, languid
- ☒ Leo is very diligent about his work.
- ☒ It is diligence that is required to crack a competitive exam like CAT.

DISAFFECTED

discontented and disloyal

- ☑ **Syn.** dissatisfied, disgruntled
- * **Ant.** contented, loyal
- ☒ The king discovered a plot by disaffected elements in the army and immediately punished the conspirators.

DISBAND V.

dissolve, disperse

- ☑ **Syn.** break up, scatter, separate
- ☒ It is not impossible to disband the gangs of the underworld dons in Mumbai.

DISBURSE

to pay out

- ☑ **Syn.** spend, splurge
- * **Ant.** gather, retain
- ☒ The government disbursed millions of rupees to reform elementary schools.

DISCERNING Adj., DISCERN V.

discriminating, observant, acute, sensitive

- ☑ **Syn.** sharp, astute, shrewd
- * **Ant.** haphazard, random, arbitrary
- ☒ A discerning art critic would be forthright in her views.

DISCLAIM

to deny, disavow

- ☑ **Syn.** reject, discard
- * **Ant.** accept, claim
- ☒ Mridula later disclaimed her silly statement, saying she had never made it in the first place.

DISCLOSE

to confess, divulge

- ☑ **Syn.** reveal, make known
- * **Ant.** conceal, hide
- ☒ The CIA agent disclosed that he had been selling top secret information to the enemy for years.

DISCONCERT V.

to embarrass, to disturb the composure of, to throw into confusion

- ☑ **Syn.** distress, sadden, trouble, offend
- * **Ant.** please, gratify, delight, thrill
- ☒ It is quite natural to be disconcerted by the unexpected.

DISCONSOLATE Adj.

without consolation or comfort, grief-stricken, cheerless

- ☑ **Syn.** dejected, gloomy, discontent
- * **Ant.** satisfied, contented
- ☒ She was disconsolate at the loss of her dog.

DISCREET Adj., DISCRETION N.

very prudent, cautious, circumspect, tactful in dealing, wary

- ☑ **Syn.** circumspect, cautious, careful
- * **Ant.** tactless, indiscreet, clumsy
- ☒ They are very good assistants, very discreet – they wouldn't go shouting to the press about anything they discovered while working for you.
- ☒ The decision is now at the discretion of the boss.

DISCREDIT

to disprove or disgrace

- ☑ **Syn.** confute, dishonour
- * **Ant.** prove, honour
- ☒ The war hero was discredited after it was revealed that he had fled in terror from the battle.

DISCREPANCY

difference between

- ☑ **Syn.** disparity, variance
- * **Ant.** similarity, correspondence
- ☒ The accountants discovered a discrepancy in the books and reported it to the management.

DISCRETIONARY

subject to one's own judgment

- ☑ **Syn.** optional, voluntary
- * **Ant.** compulsory, obligatory
- ☒ Ambassadors have some discretionary powers, though they must bow to the authority of the secretary of state.

DISCURSIVE Adj.

desultory, running from one thing to another, moving from one topic to another, rambling

- ☒ Ms. Wilson's presentation was discursive, yet highly interesting and we enjoyed her digressions into humour.

DISDAIN N., V.

a feeling of contempt due to superiority complex, haughtiness

- ☑ **Syn.** scorn, contempt, disregard
- * **Ant.** respect, deference, reverence
- ☒ The high caste people still show disdain towards the low caste in rural India.
- ☒ She disdained the idea of sharing her room with her younger brother.

DISENGAGED

disconnected, disassociated

- ☑ **Syn.** separate, disentangle
- * **Ant.** attach, connect
- ☒ Disengaged from the proceedings, the aged senator didn't notice when the warning bell went off.

DISGRUNTLED Adj.

disappointed, disgusted

- ☑ **Syn.** discontented, unhappy, irritated
- * **Ant.** contented, happy, pleased
- ☒ Disgruntled elements in the party can cause a real havoc.

DISHEVELLED V.

not ordered, ruffled, untidy, unkempt

- ☒ Dishevelled hair is in fashion these days.

DISILLUSION N., V.

disappointment, disenchantment, anticlimax

- ☑ **Syn.** disenchant, let down, dishearten
- * **Ant.** motivate, encourage, instigate
- ☒ When hard labour goes unapplauded, disillusion sets in.
- ☒ Disillusioned after losing his job, he has become a bitter man.

DISINCLINED

averse, unwilling, lacking desire

- ☑ **Syn.** reluctant, recalcitrant
- * **Ant.** inclined, willing
- ☒ Harry was disinclined to put in a lot of effort into his homework, since the teacher never checked it.

DISINGENUOUS Adj.

crafty, not ingenuous, insincere, deceitful

- ☑ **Syn.** untruthful, hypocritical
- * **Ant.** straightforward, simple, easy
- ☒ The disingenuous world of Hindi films catches many a victim unaware.

DISMAY N., V

consternation, amazement, dejection; to destroy courage or resolution by exciting dread or apprehension; to cause to lose enthusiasm

- ☑ **Syn.** shock, consternation, panic
- * **Ant.** soothe, console, reassure, calm
- ☒ Much to India's dismay, the patent for Basmati rice was granted to a US based company RiceTec.
- ☒ Aishwarya was dismayed to hear rumours linking him with a billionaire.

DISPARAGE V., **DISPARAGING** Adj.

to talk triflingly of, to lower in rank, belittle, downgrade, decry

- ☑ **Syn.** discredit, underrate
- * **Ant.** admire, commend, honour
- ☒ Only insecure people disparage others.
- ☒ On hearing the disparaging remarks about my fiancée, I lost my temper and indulged in a fistfight with the hooligans.

DISPARATE Adj., **DISPARITY** N.

basically different, unrelated

- ☑ **Syn.** unlike, unequal, incongruent
- * **Ant.** similar, alike, parallel, analogous
- ☒ The two cultures were so utterly disparate that she found it hard to adapt.
- ☒ There is disparity in their age but their mental age appears the same.

DISPASSIONATE Adj.

calm, impartial

- ☑ **Syn.** composed, detached, cool
- * **Ant.** fiery, burning, blistering, sizzling
- ☒ A journalist should be a dispassionate reporter of facts.

DISPENSE

to distribute, administer

- ☑ **Syn.** disburse, allocate
- * **Ant.** collect, receive
- ☒ Pharmacists require doctors' prescriptions to dispense some medicines to customers.

DISPERSE

to break up, scatter

- ☑ **Syn.** disseminate, sprinkle
- * **Ant.** unite, assemble
- ☒ The workers dispersed after receiving their paychecks, many of them heading for the local bar.

DISREPUTE

disgrace, dishonour

- ☑ **Syn.** infamy, notoriety
- * **Ant.** honour, esteem
- ☒ The law firm fell into disrepute after one of its lawyers was found guilty of jury tampering.

DISSEMBLE

to pretend, disguise one's motives

- ☑ **Syn.** deceive, feign
- * **Ant.** reveal, expose
- ☒ The villain tried to dissemble his exit by trying to look like another shopper but the police was alert enough to nab him.

DISSEMINATE

to spread far and wide

- ☑ **Syn.** promulgate, propagate
- * **Ant.** conceal, suppress
- ☒ The wire service disseminates information so rapidly that news of events reaches all corners minutes after they happen.

DISSENT V., N.

to disagree or differ in opinion

- ☑ **Syn.** oppose, rebel, dispute
- * **Ant.** concur, be in agreement, consent
- ☒ In a democracy, dissent has to be respected.
- ☒ The parties dissented on the issue of women's reservation in Parliament.

DISSIMULATE V.

pretend, conceal by feigning

- ☒ She tries to dissimulate her tensions and worries by her geniality.

DISSIPATE

to scatter, to pursue pleasure to excess

- ☑ **Syn.** evaporate, squander
- * **Ant.** intensify, save
- ☒ The fog gradually dissipated, revealing all the ships docked in the harbor.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. didactic | a. spread seeds |
| 2. discern | b. insight |
| 3. disparage | c. intended to teach |
| 4. disseminate | d. belittle |
| 5. dissipate | e. thin out |

1.(c) 2.(b) 3.(d) 4.(a) 5.(e)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

DISSOCIATE

to separate, remove from an association

- ☑ **Syn.** relate, connect
- * **Ant.** associate, detach
- ☒ Rajesh dissociated himself from the project when he realised the projections were all wrong.

DISSOLUTION N., DISSOLUTE Adj.

disintegration; looseness in morals

- ☑ **Syn.** closure, disbanding, suspension
- ☒ Profligacy and dissolution shown in some Hindi films in a melodramatic manner is loathsome.

DISTEND V.

to expand from internal pressure, swell out

- ☑ **Syn.** bloat, balloon, inflate
- * **Ant.** deflate, shrink, reduce, puncture
- ☒ The patient's stomach was distended and the doctors thought it was a bad sign.

DISTRESS N., V., Adj

discomfort, misery, suffering, wretchedness

- ☑ **Syn.** pain, sorrow, grief
- * **Ant.** peace, calm, tranquility, silence
- ☒ Many of the horses were showing signs of distress at the end of the race.
- ☒ Sunita was distressed to see her younger sister in a porn video.

DISTRUST (n)

disbelief and suspicion

(v) – be wary of, be suspicious of

- ☑ **Syn.** suspicion, wariness
- * **Ant.** trust, faith
- ☒ An atmosphere of distrust pervaded the office after a rash of burglaries.

DITHER V., N.

to tremble, to shiver; a state of indecisive agitation

- ☑ **Syn.** hesitate, dally, dawdle, vacillate
- ☒ The government is dithering on hard reforms like the exit policy.

DIVEST V., DIVESTITURE N.

strip, deprive; disposal of property, title etc. under a government order

- ☑ **Syn.** rid, deny, rob
- * **Ant.** add, put in, insert, adjoin
- ☒ He was divested of his priestly authority when his promiscuity was discovered.
- ☒ The divestiture of government's less profitable business operations has reduced the burden on the exchequer.

DIVULGE V., DIVULGENCE N.

to reveal, to make public, to expose, to make known

- ☑ **Syn.** reveal, acknowledge, concede
- * **Ant.** conceal, hide, shroud
- ☒ The divulgence of trade secrets by disenchanted employees has cost the company dearly.
- ☒ Sources close to the Prime Minister have divulged that he would like to retire after the next election.

(66) of (188)

DOCILE

tame, willing to be taught

- ☑ **Syn.** tame, pliant
- * **Ant.** wild, wilful
- ☒ Wolves are not as docile as dogs; they are not recommended as house pets.

DOCTRINAIRE Adj.

unable to compromise about points of doctrine, dogmatic, unyielding

- ☑ **Syn.** rigid, stern, strict, unbending
- * **Ant.** liberal, moderate, tolerant
- ☒ I prefer talking to a professor who is less doctrinaire and more open to debate.

DOFF V.

take off the hat as a greeting or as a sign of respect

- ☒ His doffing the hat very often has become more a mannerism than an etiquette.

DOGGED Adj.

determined, stubborn

- ☑ **Syn.** persistent, resolute, gritty
- ☒ Her ambition and dogged determination ensured that she rose to the top of her profession.

DOGMA N., DOGMATIC Adj.

an authoritative doctrine, a settled opinion; strongly opinionated, dictatorial

- ☑ **Syn.** creed, canon, belief, view, tenets
- ☒ Raja Rammohan Roy's crusade against dogmas in the dark ages was remarkable.
- ☒ Rita tended to be dogmatic about what she believed in.

DOLEFUL

sad, mournful

- ☑ **Syn.** woeful, sorrowful
- * **Ant.** happy, joyous
- ☒ Looking into the doleful eyes of the lonely puppy, the girl decided to take it home.

DOLOROUS Adj.

very sad, melancholic, gloomy

- ☒ Her music always has a faintly dolorous feel.

DOLT N.

stupid person

- ☒ I have never come across such a pack of dolts.

DONOR

benefactor, contributor

- ☑ **Syn.** philanthropist, patron
- * **Ant.** recipient
- ☒ Donors should be tested for diseases before their blood is used for transfusion.

DORMANT

at rest, inactive, in suspended animation

- ☑ **Syn.** inert, latent
- * **Ant.** active, awake
- ☒ The volcano seemed dormant, but a devastating eruption was brewing deep beneath.

DORSAL Adj.

belonging to the back side, posterior, tail

- ✗ The sight of a shark's dorsal fin above the water is enough to clear the sea of swimmers.

DOSSIER N.

a bundle of documents relating to a person, a brief

- ☑ **Syn.** file, record, report, database
- ✗ The secret service probably has a dossier on all of us.

NOTE V.

to show excessive love, to treasure

- ✗ People tend to dote on their grandchildren.

DOUBLE-ENTENDRE

(*DOUBLE AN TRANDA*) N.

phrase with two meanings: one of them indecent

- ✗ Hindi films teem with double-entendres.

DOUGHTY Adj.

valiant, dauntless, fearless

- ☑ **Syn.** tough, feisty, indomitable
- * **Ant.** feeble, weak, frail, delicate
- ✗ Tilak, the doughty nationalist, put up his case vehemently in the court.

DOUR (*DOOR*) Adj.

obstinate, sullen, morose, harsh, stubborn

- ☑ **Syn.** sour, stern, grim, severe, gloomy
- * **Ant.** kindly, gently, nicely
- ✗ The perpetual dour expression on someone's face can be quite irritating.

DOWDY Adj.

slovenly, untidy

- ☑ **Syn.** drab, plain, dated, dull, dreary
- * **Ant.** chic, stylish, attractive, elegant
- ✗ Physical inefficiency and lack of agility makes a person dowdy.

DOWRY

money or property given by a bride's family to the groom's family on the occasion of marriage

- ✗ Her parents were wealthy enough, but Sonal refused to marry anyone who demanded dowry.

DRAB N.

a dull colour, dullness, monotonous colour

- ☑ **Syn.** plain, dowdy, dreary, dingy
- * **Ant.** interesting, attractive, appealing
- ✗ The drab surroundings of an orphanage need to be changed.

DRAFT (v)

to plan, outline, to recruit

(n) – rough sketch, outline

- ☑ **Syn.** blueprint, conscript
- * **Ant.** final version
- ✗ The boys were drafted into the army when they turned 18.

DRIBBLE V., N.

to fall in small drops, move a ball by repeated taps or kicks

- ☑ **Syn.** trickle, drip, ooze, seep, salivate
- ✗ The dribbling gains of economic reforms proved to be too slow for a populace impatient for results.
- ✗ David Beckham is adept at dribbling the ball.

DRUDGERY N.

a very hard, boring work; uninteresting toil

- ☑ **Syn.** labour, hard work, toil, chore
- ✗ Electronic information retrieval will remove much of the drudgery of research and leave time for the more interesting bits.

DUBIOUS Adj.

doubtful, debatable, disputable, equivocal, questionable

- ☑ **Syn.** uncertain, unsure, undecided
- ✗ The dubious credentials of the politician will make interesting scoop material.

DUPE V., N.

to deceive others, to trick

- ☑ **Syn.** fool, trick, deceive, con
- ✗ The girls were duped by drug smugglers into carrying heroin for them.

DUPLICITY N.

double-dealing, hypocrisy, deception

- ☑ **Syn.** deceit, dishonesty, disloyalty
- * **Ant.** frankness, integrity, candor
- ✗ Duplicity is the order of the day and if you are honest and straightforward you are in danger.

DURABILITY – strength, sturdiness

- ☑ **Syn.** imperishability, permanence
- * **Ant.** perishability, fragility
- ✗ The all-terrain pickup truck was built for durability.

DURATION

period of time that something lasts

- ☑ **Syn.** span, time scale
- ✗ Devi was seasick in her cabin for the entire duration of the voyage.

DURESS N.

imprisonment, constraint

- ☑ **Syn.** pressure, force, threat, coercion
- * **Ant.** persuasion, influence, urging
- ✗ Signing a document under duress would make it null and void.

DWINDLE V.

depreciate, devalue, diminish

- ☑ **Syn.** decrease, decline, fall, drop
- * **Ant.** increase, add to, augment, boost
- ✗ Dwindling currency reserves sent alarm bells ringing in the government.

DYSPHORIA N.

morbid restlessness, uneasiness, depression and discontent

- ✗ His dysphoria knew no bounds when he learnt that his friend had managed to get the promotion.

“E”

EARNEST Adj., N.

sincere, serious; a serious and intent mental state

- ☑ **Syn.** solemn, grave, sober
- * **Ant.** frivolous, playful, perky
- ☒ Earnest efforts to reform Indian elections have turned the election commission into a powerful entity.
- ☒ Now we can relax in earnest.

EBB

to fade away, recede

- ☑ **Syn.** retreat, wane
- * **Ant.** increase, intensify
- ☒ Madhu enjoyed watching the ebb and flow of the tide from her beachside balcony.

EBULLIENT Adj., **EBULLIENCE** N.

enthusiastic, excessively excited, exuberant

- ☑ **Syn.** cheerful, happy, jovial, bright
- * **Ant.** depressing, gloomy, miserable
- ☒ Our ebullient host couldn't stop laughing and talking.
- ☒ Meg Ryan's bubbling ebullience is simply infectious.

ECHELON N.

a group of individuals at a particular level in an organisation, hierarchy

- ☑ **Syn.** level, stratum, rank, height
- ☒ Reaching the highest echelons of international politics is a dream for many.

ECLECTIC Adj.

made up of elements borrowed from different sources, carefully selected, chosen from the best or various sources

- ☑ **Syn.** assorted, free, miscellaneous
- ☒ Maria reads an eclectic array of books and can always suggest a good title.

ECSTASY N., **ECSTATIC** Adj.

a feeling of great happiness, exultation, intense delight

- ☑ **Syn.** joy, rapture, delight
- * **Ant.** deject, gloom, agony
- ☒ The agony and ecstasy of motherhood can be only felt by those who go through it.

EDDY

air or wind current

- ☑ **Syn.** whirlpool, vortex
- ☒ When water gets pulled down a drain, it forms a small eddy.

EDICT

law, command, official public order

- ☑ **Syn.** diktat, proclamation
- ☒ People were angered by the new edict of the dictator that restricted free movement.

EDIFICE N.

a large and impressive building or structure,

- ☑ **Syn.** construction, house, shop
- ☒ The crumbling edifice of law and order in India can be attributed to our politicians.
- ☒ A white marble edifice called the *Taj* attracts millions to India every year.

EDIFY

to instruct morally and spiritually

- ☑ **Syn.** enlighten, educate
- * **Ant.** to keep in the dark, conceal
- ☒ The guru was paid to edify the actress in the ways of Buddhism.

EDITORIALISE

to express an opinion on an issue

- ☒ The old journalist criticised the modern tendency to editorialise even regular news items.

EFFACE V., **EFFACEABLE** Adj.,

EFFACEMENT N.

to destroy the surface of, to obliterate, to erase

- ☑ **Syn.** wipe out, eradicate
- * **Ant.** engrave, etch, carve
- ☒ Hitler's attempts at effacement of the Jews finally proved futile.
- ☒ The police had a difficult task as the culprits had effaced all evidence from the scene of burglary.

EFFERVESCENT

bubbly, lively

- ☑ **Syn.** vivacious, jaunty
- * **Ant.** depressed, flat
- ☒ Tina's effervescent personality made her the perfect game show host.

EFFEMINATE Adj., N.

feminine, womanly, unmanly

- ☒ He's got a very effeminate gait.

EFFETE Adj.

worn out, exhausted, no longer useful, outmoded, nonproductive

- ☒ With nothing to do all day except amuse themselves, the rich kids had grown effete and lazy.

EFFICACY N., **EFFICACIOUS** Adj.

power to produce the desired effect

- ☑ **Syn.** effectiveness, usefulness, worth
- * **Ant.** incompetence, inadequacy
- ☒ The efficacy of the medicine can be ascertained only after its prolonged use.
- ☒ For years, people hoped that someone would discover an efficacious treatment for polio.

EFFIGY

stuffed doll, likeness of a person

- ☑ **Syn.** dummy, statue
- ☒ The anti-American militants burned Uncle Sam's effigy during their demonstration.

EFFRONTERY

impudent boldness, audacity

- ☑ **Syn.** impertinence, brazenness
- * **Ant.** politeness, timidity
- ☒ The receptionist had the effrontery to laugh out loud when the visitor tripped and fell.

EFFUSIVE Adj., **EFFUSION** N.

pouring out, gushing out

- ☒ His manner of receiving people may be effusive but is not necessarily spontaneous and sincere.
- ☒ The crowd was quite effusive in its expression of anger against the candidate.

EFFULGENCE N., **EFFULGENT** Adj.

radiant splendour, brilliance

- ☒ The effulgence of diamonds seems to have cast a spell on women around the world.

EGALITARIANISM N., **EGALITARIAN** Adj.

a belief in human equality

- ☑ **Syn.** democratic, free, classless, equal
- * **Ant.** repressive, exploitive, brutal
- ☒ Communism aims at an egalitarian society.

EGOCENTRIC

concerned only about one's own interests

- ☑ **Syn.** narcissistic, self-centred
- * **Ant.** altruistic, magnanimous
- ☒ Chitranjan was too egocentric to notice the effect of his comments on his colleagues.

EGREGIOUS Adj.

outrageously bad, flagrant, profoundly noticeable in a negative way

- ☒ The egregious bowling by the Sri Lankans during the tournament earned them a lot of infamy.

EGRESS N., V.

exit, issue, emergence, outbreak

- ☑ **Syn.** way out, door, outlet
- * **Ant.** entry, access, way in, arrival
- ☒ They egressed from the cinema hall zapped by Shah Rukh's performance.

ELATION

exhilaration, joy

- ☑ **Syn.** delight, glee
- * **Ant.** misery, suffering
- ☒ The actress was filled with elation when she heard that she had been awarded the Oscar.

ELEGY

mournful poem, usually about the dead

- ☑ **Syn.** requiem, plaint
- ☒ I wrote an elegy for my father.

ELICIT

to draw out, obtain

- ☑ **Syn.** extract, educe
- * **Ant.** suppress, insert
- ☒ The tough policeman was not able to elicit a confession from the suspect.

ELIXIR N.

cure-all, something invigorating

- ☒ The so-called magical elixir turned out to be nothing but a cheap alcoholic drink.

ELOQUENT Adj., **ELOQUENCE** N.

strongly expressive, articulate, memorable because of verbal skills, moving and forcefully phrased

- ☑ **Syn.** fluent, articulate, powerful
- ☒ Adolf Hitler's eloquence on Aryan supremacy made millions of Germans walk behind him to conquer Europe.
- ☒ Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' is widely considered to be one of the most eloquent and effective speeches in American history.

ELUCIDATE

to explain, clarify

- ☑ **Syn.** expound, delineate
- * **Ant.** confuse, obfuscate
- ☒ The teacher elucidated the reasons why she had failed the student, to his parents.

Architecture

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

 AISLE	: a passage between rows of seats in a building such as Church or Theatre , an aircraft or train.
 BOULEVARD	: a wide street in a town or city typically one lined with trees
 CONCOURSE	: an open space where several paths meet
 EDIFICE	: a monument
 HOVEL	: a shed or poorly constructed or ill-kept house
 MEZZANINE	: a low balcony above the ground floor of a building
 OBELISK	: a tapering (narrowing) column that forming pyramid at the top
 PERISTYLE	: a colonnade or row of piers surrounding a building or courtyard
 ROCOCO	: ornate; highly decorative
 VOUSOIR	: a wedge-shaped stone used in making an arch or vault

ELUDE V., ELUSIVE Adj.

to escape by trickery

- ☑ **Syn.** evade, dodge, hedge, avoid
- ★ **Ant.** confront, capture, face
- ☒ They had minor breakthroughs but real success eluded them.
- ☒ The elusive sandalwood smuggler Veerappan was eventually killed in a police encounter.

EMACIATED

skinny, gaunt, especially from hunger

- ☑ **Syn.** scrawny, undernourished
- ★ **Ant.** healthy, well-fed
- ☒ The emaciated mendicant begged for scraps from the picnickers.

EMANCIPATE

to set free, liberate

- ☑ **Syn.** unbridle, unyoke
- ★ **Ant.** imprison, restrain
- ☒ After the slaves were emancipated, many of them moved to big cities in search of opportunities.

EMANATE V.

to come out from a source

- ☑ **Syn.** originate, spring
- ☒ Odour emanating from the rotten fruits lying around is making walking in that alley impossible.

EMBARGO N.

a prohibition, a ban on trade

- ☑ **Syn.** restriction, stoppage
- ☒ The UN embargo on Iraq failed to break Saddam.

EMBELLISH V., EMBELLISHMENT N.

to decorate with ornaments, adorn, garnish

- ☑ **Syn.** embroider, beautify, make fancy
- ☒ The *Maharaja* suite is embellished with many Bonsai plants.
- ☒ The intricate embellishments in Hindu temples awe many foreign tourists.

EMBEZZLE V., EMBEZZLEMENT N.

to steal, to fraudulently take as one's own

- ☑ **Syn.** misappropriate, misuse, cheat
- ☒ When the chief trustee was charged with embezzlement, everyone was shocked.

EMBROIL

to involve in, cause to fall into disorder

- ☑ **Syn.** entangle, enmesh
- ★ **Ant.** disentangle, extricate
- ☒ Lawyers became embroiled in the dispute when a compromise appeared difficult without their help.

EMBRACE V., N.

to clasp in the arms; to take up especially readily or gladly

- ☑ **Syn.** hug, cuddle, cling
- ☒ They embraced and kissed before departing.
- ☒ Mata Amritanandmayi Devi is well known for her disease-curing embraces.

EMERITUS Adj.

officially retired but functioning in a honorary capacity, honourably discharged from public duty

- ☒ Dr. Singh has been appointed professor emeritus at Delhi School of Economics.

EMIGRATE V., EMIGRATION N.

to move from one country to another

- ☑ **Syn.** move abroad, go into exile
- ☒ Millions of Tibetans emigrated from Tibet to India before the Indo-China war.

EMINENT Adj., EMINENCE N.

conspicuous, projecting; importance or prominence

- ☑ **Syn.** distinction, reputation, fame
- ☒ Having achieved eminence as an actress she now intends to perform a comparable feat in politics.
- ☒ The eminent painter had his own idiosyncracies.

EMOLLIENT

having soothing qualities, especially for skin

- ☑ **Syn.** softening, palliative
- ★ **Ant.** irritant, aggravating
- ☒ After a couple of weeks, the emollient lotion changed Divya's skin from scaly to smooth.

EMOLUMENT N.

salary or fees for a job, remuneration, pay or compensation for work

- ☑ **Syn.** wage, pay cheque
- ☒ The lure of fancy emoluments beckons students to the IIMs.

EMOTIVE

appealing to or expressing emotion

- ☑ **Syn.** sensitive, touchy
- ★ **Ant.** cold, indifferent
- ☒ The film had a strong emotive appeal, reducing the audience to tears.

EMPATHY

identification with another's feelings

- ☑ **Syn.** sympathy, compassion
- ★ **Ant.** antipathy, cold-heartedness
- ☒ Having been a teacher herself, Jennifer had great empathy for the troubled teacher in the film.

EMULATE V.

to strive to equal or excel, to imitate

- ☑ **Syn.** follow, simulate, copy, imitate
- ☒ Adolescents often try to emulate their favourite pop singers or movie stars.

ENCORE

additional performance, often demanded by audience

- ☑ **Syn.** replay, repetition
- ☒ Soon as the danseuse finished her performance, the audience enthusiastically demanded an encore.

ENCHANT V., ENCHANTING Adj.

to bewitch, delight, beguile, charm

- ☑ **Syn.** captivate, fascinate, enthrall
- ☒ The enchanting music of A.R. Rehman is the only saving grace of the movie.
- ☒ The guests were enchanted by the actor's presence at the wedding.

ENCEPHALOGRAM N.

An X-ray picture of the brain

- ☒ The encephalogram clearly shows a tumour on the left side.

ENCOMIUM N., ENCOMIASTIC Adj.

a eulogy, high commendation or praise

- ☒ The encomium "Indira is India" was too far-fetched.

ENCUMBER V.

to weigh down, burden

- ☒ His life has always been encumbered with responsibilities.

ENDEMIC

belonging to a particular area, widespread

- ☑ **Syn.** indigenous, infectious
- * **Ant.** foreign, confined
- ☒ As the outbreak was endemic to the small village, the health department quarantined the inhabitants.

ENDORSE V.

to give one's sanction to something; to approve openly

- ☑ **Syn.** support, sanction, back
- * **Ant.** oppose, protest
- ☒ The communist leader, of late, has been endorsing economic reforms.

ENDURANCE

ability to withstand hardships

- ☑ **Syn.** forbearance, stamina
- * **Ant.** impatience, weakness
- ☒ Boris built up her endurance by running ten miles every day, as she prepared for the marathon.

ENERVATE V., ENERVATED Adj.**ENERVATION N.**

to deprive of nerve, strength or vitality, to rob of energy, to diminish the strength of mind or body

- ☑ **Syn.** weaken, sap your strength
- * **Ant.** energise, boost
- ☒ It is normal to feel enervated after a good workout in the gymnasium.
- ☒ The enervated look on your face tells me that you haven't eaten for some days.

ENGENDER

to produce, cause, bring about

- ☑ **Syn.** trigger, instigate
- * **Ant.** thwart, extinguish
- ☒ The death of a friend by snakebite engendered the fear of snakes in him.

ENGROSS V.

to absorb, captivate, charm

- ☑ **Syn.** occupy, involve, hold
- * **Ant.** repulse
- ☒ He was engrossed in the movie.
The politician was so engrossed in self-aggrandization that he was blind to the misery around him.

ENGULF V.

to swallow up completely

- ☑ **Syn.** overwhelm, overcome
- ☒ The blue whale can engulf a whole school of fish at a time.

ENIGMA N., ENIGMATIC Adj.

a confusing statement, mysterious situation or person, riddle, a thing hard to understand or fathom, conundrum

- ☑ **Syn.** mystery, riddle, puzzle
- ☒ His high energy levels at the ripe age of 80 is an enigma to all the family members.
- ☒ Ruchi is an enigmatic girl; at times she acts so mature and at times like a kid.

ENJOIN

command, forbid or prohibit, as by judicial order

- ☑ **Syn.** to urge, order
- * **Ant.** request
- ☒ The judge enjoined the stalker from being present within 100 yards of the complainant.

ENMITY

hostility, ill-will

- ☑ **Syn.** antagonism, animosity
- * **Ant.** goodwill, friendship
- ☒ We hope that cricket will help to cool down the simmering enmity between the two countries.

ENNUI N.

a feeling of weariness and dissatisfaction

- ☒ A feeling of ennui sets in if I have to sit at home without work.

ENORMITY

state of being gigantic or terrible

- ☑ **Syn.** vastness, massiveness
- * **Ant.** triviality, smallness
- ☒ The manager underestimated the enormity of the problem and his delay resulted in disaster.

ENRAGE V.

to make angry, bother, irritate, aggravate

- ☑ **Syn.** infuriate, madden
- ☒ He was so enraged at the article about him that he sued the newspaper.

ENRAPTURE V.

to fill with delight, please intensely

- ☑ **Syn.** captivate, enchant, beguile
- ☒ The live pop concert enraptured the audience.

ENSCONCE V.

to settle, establish

- ☒ The dog jumped up and ensconced itself comfortably in the sofa.

ENSEMBLE N.

all parts of a thing taken together, a complete costume of complementary clothing

- ☑ **Syn.** company, group, en masse
- ☒ She bought a dress and matching hat, gloves and shoes – in fact the whole ensemble.

ENSHROUD

to cover, hide

- ☒ The hill was enshrouded by clouds and we failed to spot the goats.

ENTAIL

to involve as a necessary result, necessitate

- ☑ **Syn.** assume, warrant
- ☒ The reforms you suggest would entail great expense.

ENTHRALL

to captivate, enchant, enslave

- ☑ **Syn.** beguile, fascinate
- * **Ant.** bore, disillusion
- ☒ The children were enthralled by the stunts of the trapeze artists.

ENTITY

something with its own existence or form

- ☑ **Syn.** individual, existence
- * **Ant.** non-entity, nonexistence
- ☒ Attempts have been made to preserve Hong Kong as a territorial entity, separate from China.

ENTOURAGE N.

surroundings, followers, attendants, retinue

- ☑ **Syn.** associates, backup, support
- ☒ The rock star arrived in London with her usual entourage of dancers and backstage singers.

ENTREAT

to plead, beg

- ☑ **Syn.** implore, beseech
- * **Ant.** command, demand
- ☒ I entreated him to just tell me what the problem was, but he refused.

ENTRENCHMENT N., ENTRENCH V.

a fortification, a defence, a protection

- ☒ The legal entrenchment of apartheid has been lifted.
- ☒ By next year, I will have my followers firmly entrenched in Bihar politics.

ENUMERATE

to count, list

- ☑ **Syn.** itemise, cite
- * **Ant.** be vague
- ☒ The policeman patiently enumerated the offences while the motorist tried to plead ignorance of the local rules.

ENUNCIATE V.

verbalise, vocalise, articulate

- ☑ **Syn.** assert, affirm, proclaim
- * **Ant.** deny, contradict, dis-claim
- ☒ The manifesto failed to enunciate the party's stand on relations with the USA.

ENVOY N.

a messenger (especially one sent to transact business with a foreign government)

- ☑ **Syn.** representative, emissary, herald
- ☒ The Indian envoy to Pakistan has never been in a more comfortable position than now.

EPHEMERAL

momentary, transient, fleeting

- ☑ **Syn.** transitory, evanescent
- * **Ant.** permanent, enduring
- ☒ The life of a butterfly is but ephemeral, lasting just a day or two.

EPICURE

person with refined taste in food and wine

- ☑ **Syn.** gourmet, gourmand
- ☒ He was popular as an epicure and his columns helped people decide where to eat.

EPIGRAM N.

witty thought or saying, usually short

- ☑ **Syn.** axiom, quip, ditty, rhyme
- ☒ Epigrams of Churchill and Bernard Shaw are famous.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1. elicit | a. bring out |
| 2. eminent | b. strive to equal |
| 3. emulate | c. well known |
| 4. endemic | d. reduce the strength of |
| 5. enervate | e. native |

1.(a) 2.(c) 3.(b) 4.(e) 5.(d)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

EPILOGUE

concluding section of a literary work

- ☑ **Syn.** afterword, postscript
- * **Ant.** prologue, prelude
- ☒ In the epilogue of the novel, the author revealed the ultimate fate of the main characters.

EPITAPH N.

inscription in memory of a dead person, writing on a tomb or at the gravesite

- ☒ I do not know what my epitaph would read but I never did invite infamy.

EPITOME

representing the highest feature, summary

- ☑ **Syn.** embodiment, conspectus
- * **Ant.** complete version, worst
- ☒ The host was the epitome of graciousness, making all the guests feel perfectly comfortable.

EPOCH N., EPOCHAL Adj.

a point of time made remarkable by some great event

- ☑ **Syn.** era, period, time, age, eon
- ☒ The president said that the country was moving into a new epoch of lasting peace with the old rival in the neighbourhood.
- ☒ During his epochal term as the prime-minister, Rajiv Gandhi changed the face of modern India.

EQUABLE Adj.

tranquil, steady, uniform

- ☑ **Syn.** composed, calm, levelheaded
- * **Ant.** nervous, anxious, worried
- ☒ Compared to the extreme climate of Africa and the West, India enjoys an equable climate.

EQUANIMITY N.

evenness of mind and temper under stress, calmness

- ☑ **Syn.** composure, calmness, equability
- ☒ The finance minister's equanimity in the face of the opposition's accusations is creditable.

EQUESTRIAN Adj., N.

related to horse riding; a horse-rider

- ☒ They erected an equestrian statue of the prince.

EQUITABLE Adj.

fair, impartial, aboveboard, uncoloured

- ☑ **Syn.** evenhanded, reasonable, just
- * **Ant.** unfair, unjust, inequitable, undue
- ☒ There's a great need for a more equitable tax system.

EQUIVOCAL

ambiguous, open to more than one interpretation

- ☑ **Syn.** indeterminate, ambiguous
- * **Ant.** explicit, specific
- ☒ Poems are inherently equivocal, and different readers may interpret them differently.

EQUIVOCATE

to use vague or ambiguous language intentionally

- ☑ **Syn.** prevaricate, hedge
- * **Ant.** confront, face
- ☒ The smaller parties could not afford to equivocate any longer as the coalition government had to be in place within a week.

ERADICATE

to erase or wipe out

- ☑ **Syn.** exterminate, obliterate
- * **Ant.** generate, propagate
- ☒ Politicians promise to eradicate poverty and then renew the vow before the next election.

EROTIC Adj.

tending to arouse sexual love or desire

- ☒ The erotic art depicted in the Khajuraho temple makes it world famous.

ERRANT

straying, mistaken

- ☑ **Syn.** mischievous, roving
- * **Ant.** straightforward, aboveboard
- ☒ The errant disciple realised his mistake and returned to the guru after several weeks of hardship.

ERRAND N.

a mission, a purpose, a short journey either to deliver or collect something

- ☑ **Syn.** task duty, chore, job
- ☒ I am in Singapore running an errand for my father.

ERUDITE Adj.

scholarly, learned, well-cultured, educated, possessing great knowledge

- ☑ **Syn.** cultured, intellectual
- ☒ The erudite scholar knew a great deal about ancient history but very little about current events.

ESCAPADE N.

a usually adventurous action that runs contrary to convention

- ☒ The escapade in the Amazon jungles was expected to free the minds of the senior executives of the software giant.

ESCHEW

to abstain from, avoid

- ☑ **Syn.** shun, renounce
- * **Ant.** indulge in, take liberty of
- ☒ Models generally eschew rich desserts that can be fattening.

ESOTERIC

understood by only a learned few

- ☑ **Syn.** recondite, arcane
- * **Ant.** simple, familiar
- ☒ Only a handful of experts are knowledgeable about the esoteric world of particle physics.

ESPIONAGE N.

the practice of spying to obtain information about the activities of a foreign country or a rival company

- ☑ **Syn.** spying, intelligence
- ☒ IB and RAW are the counter espionage agencies in India.

ESPOUSE V., ESPOUSAL N.

to take up and support as a cause; to marry

- ☒ Irene espoused the cause of educating street children.

ESPRIT DE CORPS

a deep loyalty of members towards the group

- ☒ His leadership kept the team's esprit de corps intact during difficult periods.

EUGENICS N.

the science of race improvement by proper gene selection etc.

- ☒ Eugenics was the central and most controversial part of his social philosophy.

ESTRANGE

to alienate, keep at a distance

- ☑ **Syn.** separate, divorce
- * **Ant.** unite, connect
- ☒ Abhishek was not aware of the death of his parents, because he was estranged from his family for many years.

ETHEREAL

not earthly, spiritual, delicate

- ☑ **Syn.** celestial, dainty
- * **Ant.** earthly, indelicate
- ☒ Her delicate, ethereal beauty made her a popular model for pre-impressionist artists.

ETHOS

beliefs or character of a group

- ☑ **Syn.** ethics, essence
- ☒ The wise king was determined to safeguard the ethos of the people of the country he had just conquered.

EULOGY N., EULOGISE V.

EULOGISTIC Adj.

a speech of praise, written praise, laudation, acclaim, encomium

- ☑ **Syn.** tribute, acclamation
- * **Ant.** criticism
- ☒ Today, everyone sings eulogies of Sonia's leadership skills.

EUNUCH N.

one who lacks virility and power, a castrated man

- ☒ Eunuchs begging in local trains in Mumbai hurl obscenities to scare passengers into shelling out money.

EUPHEMISM

use of an inoffensive word or phrase in place of a more distasteful one

- ☒ The funeral director preferred to use the euphemism "passed away" instead of the word "dead."

EUPHONY N., EUPHONIOUS Adj.

an agreeable sound, sweet sound, pleasing or agreeable sound

- * **Ant.** cacophony
- ☒ The euphony of temple bells in the morning is so soothing to the soul.

EUPHORIA N., EUPHORIC Adj.

an exaggerated feeling of happiness or well-being

- ☑ **Syn.** ecstasy, joy, rapture, excitement
- * **Ant.** despair, misery, anguish, gloom
- ☒ The euphoria of Princess Diana's happy life with Al Fayed finally turned out to be ephemeral.
- ☒ You are euphoric when you see your name in the final admission list of IIM A.

EUTHANASIA

mercy killing; intentional, easy, and painless death

- ☒ The woman argued that giving her terminally-ill husband an overdose of morphine was euthanasia, not murder.

EVADE V., EVASIVE Adj., EVASION N.

to escape or avoid artfully

- ☑ **Syn.** avoid, dodge, escape, shirk, skirt
- ☒ During the enquiry his answers were evasive.
- ☒ An Olympic gold medal is the only thing that has evaded her in her remarkable career.
- ☒ Tax evasion has been a major problem in our country.

EVANESCENT Adj., EVANESCENCE N.

fleeting, vanishing, ephemeral, temporary

- ☑ **Syn.** passing, brief, momentary
- * **Ant.** permanent, enduring, eternal
- ☒ The evanescent post-war economic boom was quickly followed by a deep recession.

EVANGELIST N.

missionary, crusader, proselytiser

- ☒ Christian evangelists are rendering yeoman service to the tribals in several part of India, though some accuse them of being aggressive in religious conversion.

EVICT

to put out or force out

- ☑ **Syn.** oust, eject
- * **Ant.** admit, maintain
- ☒ The tenant was evicted from the apartment when she failed to pay rent for three months in a row.

EVINCE

to show clearly, display, signify

- ☑ **Syn.** indicate, exhibit
- * **Ant.** conceal, obscure
- ☒ The new secretary evinced impressive typing and filing skills.

EVOCATIVE Adj., EVOCATION N.

EVOKE V.

tending to call up or remind

- ☒ Driving through the bylanes of Mumbai evoked sweet memories of my childhood.
- ☒ My evocative journey to my hometown brought tears to my eyes.

EXACERBATE

to aggravate, intensify the bad qualities of

- ☑ **Syn.** worsen, compound
- * **Ant.** improve, reduce
- ☒ It is unwise to take aspirin to relieve heartburn; the drug will only exacerbate the problem.

EXAGGERATE V., EXAGGERATION N.

to magnify unduly, to represent too strongly

- ☑ **Syn.** overstate, overstress, embroider
- * **Ant.** understate, devalue, minimize
- ☒ The threat of a Pakistani attack along the Line of Control has been greatly exaggerated.
- ☒ A little exaggeration about her disease got her a fortnight's extension of leave.

EXALT V., EXALTATION N.

laud, glorify, honour

- ☑ **Syn.** extol, praise, acclaim
- * **Ant.** criticise, censure, reprove
- ☒ Exalting the dead and criticising the living seems to be our national pastime.

EXASPERATE V., EXASPERATION N.

to irritate, to make very angry, infuriate

- ☑ **Syn.** madden, frustrate, annoy
- ☒ The exasperated parents of the aberrant youth feel helpless at times.
- ☒ After he lost the match, Andre Agassi broke his racquet in exasperation.

EXCERPT N., V.

an extract from a source (book, speech etc.), citation, clipping

- ☑ **Syn.** passage, quote, selection, piece
- ☒ The excerpts contain the essential points of the report.
- ☒ He has beautifully excerpted The Bhagwad Gita in 10 pages.

EXCHEQUER N.

government department in charge of the revenues

- ☒ The poll gimmick of a kilo of rice at two rupees will bankrupt the exchequer.

EXCORIATE V., EXCORIATION N.

to wear off the skin of, abrade

- ☑ **Syn.** criticise, attack, upbraid, rebuke
- * **Ant.** commend, praise, acclaim, laud
- ☒ His latest novel received excoriating reviews.

EXCRUCIATE V., EXCRUCIATING Adj.

to torture, to inflict severe pain

- ☒ The excruciating tooth extraction made my eyes wet.
- ☒ The President excoriated the Western press for their biased views.

EXCULPATE

to clear of blame or fault, vindicate

- ☑ **Syn.** absolve, acquit
- * **Ant.** condemn, indict
- ☒ The new legal system is intended to convict those who are guilty and to exculpate those who are innocent.

EXECRABLE

utterly detestable, abhorrent

- ☑ **Syn.** abominable, despicable
- * **Ant.** good, admirable
- ☒ Everyone at the party was appalled by her execrable behaviour.

EXECRATE V.

to detest utterly

- ☒ Taruna execrates the bitter memories of her days as a hostage.

EXEMPLARY Adj.

serving as a model; outstanding

- ☑ **Syn.** excellent, consummate, ideal
- ☒ Joan of Arc's exemplary courage was appreciated by all.

EX GRATIA Adj.

as an act of grace, as a favour and not an obligation

- ☒ Although the suppliers were shown not to have been negligent, they made ex gratia payments to all those affected by the spillage.

EXHILARATE V., EXHILARATION N.,**EXHILARATING Adj.**

to make cheerful, enliven, excite

- ☑ **Syn.** commove, spirit up
- * **Ant.** dishearten, deject
- ☒ The exhilaration of driving a Porsche at 200 mph is simply unparalleled.
- ☒ The crowd went mad at Shanghai Grand Prix as Michael Schumacher put in yet another exhilarating performance.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| 1. engender | a. intentionally confusing |
| 2. enormity | b. lasting a very short time |
| 3. ephemeral | c. cause to exit |
| 4. epitome | d. brief summary |
| 5. equivocal | e. extreme evil |

1.(c) 2.(e) 3.(b) 4.(d) 5.(a)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

EXHORT V., EXHORTATION N.

to urge strongly, goad, incite, egg, encourage

- ☑ **Syn.** press, push, insist, pressure
- ☒ His stooges exhorted the voters to re-elect the inefficient leader.
- ☒ The jailer's exhortation to maintain peace fell on deaf ears and there was a lot of bloodshed.

EXHUME

to remove from a grave, uncover a secret

- ☑ **Syn.** unearth, disclose
- ★ **Ant.** bury, entomb
- ☒ The body was exhumed, but as it failed to provide any new evidence, it was buried again the next day.

EXIGENCY N., EXIGENT Adj.

urgent situation, an urgently demanding time or state of affairs

- ☑ **Syn.** need, emergency, pressure
- ☒ It is due to an administrative exigency that he has been posted on the front line.
- ☒ An exigent situation cropped up and the General had to rush to the spot.

EXIGUOUS Adj.

small, minute, scanty

- ☒ The judge said that the evidence was exiguous and gave the defendant two more weeks for finding more.

EXODUS N.

a moving out of many people from a place or country to another

- ☑ **Syn.** mass departure, evacuation
- ☒ There is always an exodus to the coast at holiday times.

EX OFFICIO Adj.

by virtue of the office; automatically a member because of the post already held

- ☒ The President is the ex-officio supreme commander of the armed forces.

EXONERATE V.

exculpate, to free from blame, to acquit, vindicate, to free from guilt, absolve

- ☑ **Syn.** absolve, acquit, forgive, pardon
- ★ **Ant.** convict, blame, charge
- ☒ After being exonerated from the charges, the minister looked very happy.

EXORBITANT Adj.

going beyond normal limits, excessive

- ☑ **Syn.** very high, inflated, steep
- ★ **Ant.** reasonable, sensible, rational
- ☒ The food was palatable but the bill for the dinner was exorbitant.

EXORCISE V., EXORCIST N.

to free a person from an evil spirit, to get rid of something terrible by formal prayer

- ☑ **Syn.** get rid of, escape, jettison
- ☒ We must exorcise ourselves of the ghost of partition.
- ☒ The exorcist stripped the girl and beat her with a broom to get rid of the spirit that had possessed her.

EXOTIC Adj.

alien, foreign by nature, strange

- ☑ **Syn.** foreign, from abroad
- ★ **Ant.** familiar, recognisable, common
- ☒ My idea of a vacation is a trip to the exotic locales of Malibu.

EXPANSIVE

sweeping, comprehensive, tending to expand

- ☑ **Syn.** spacious, all-embracing
- ★ **Ant.** taciturn, restricted
- ☒ Some chapters in the book were expansive in their historical coverage.

EXPATRIATE

one who lives outside one's native land

- ☑ **Syn.** refugee, migrant
- ★ **Ant.** native, national
- ☒ He spent much of his adult life as an expatriate and returned to his own country after retirement.

EXPEDIENT

convenient, efficient, practical

- ☑ **Syn.** beneficial, pragmatic
- ★ **Ant.** ill-advised, unprofitable
- ☒ It was considered more expedient to send the fruit directly to the retailer instead of involving a middleman.

EXPEDITE V., EXPEDITIOUS Adj.

to hasten, to speed up, facilitate

- ☑ **Syn.** accelerate, hurry up, advance
- ★ **Ant.** impede, obstruct, hamper, delay
- ☒ The government must expedite the construction and commissioning of the new power project.

EXPIATE V., EXPIATION N., EXPIABLE Adj.

to make amends for, atone for, to make up for, in the sense of atoning

- ☑ **Syn.** make up, redress, apologise
- ☒ He bought her a bunch of flowers to expiate for forgetting her birthday.

EXPIRE

to come to an end, die, breathe out

- ☑ **Syn.** lapse, become obsolete
- ★ **Ant.** inhale, inspire
- ☒ Since her driver's licence was about to expire, she had to go and exchange it for a new one.

EXPLETIVE Adj., N.

an obscene exclamation

- ☑ **Syn.** curse, oath, exclamation
- ★ **Ant.** blessing, benediction
- ☒ He let out a string of expletives at being pushed so roughly.

EXPLICIT

clearly defined, forthright in expression

- ☑ **Syn.** specific, precise
- ★ **Ant.** vague, general
- ☒ The owner gave several explicit instructions to the tenants about the proper maintenance of the house.

EXPONENT

one who champions or advocates

- ☑ **Syn.** crusader, upholder
- * **Ant.** critic, opponent
- ☒ The vice president was an enthusiastic exponent of computer technology.

EXPOSTULATION N., EXPOSTULATE V.

protest, remonstrance

- ☒ Despite the IT department's appeals, expostulations and threats, not much of black money comes out in amnesty schemes.

EXPOUND

to elaborate, to expand or increase

- ☑ **Syn.** delineate, elucidate
- * **Ant.** complicate, obfuscate
- ☒ The teacher expounded on the theory of relativity for hours, but failed to impress the students.

EXPUNGE V.

to erase, delete, wipe off, to efface, terminate,

- ☑ **Syn.** obliterate, erase, delete, edit out
- ☒ The obscene words exchanged by the two generals were expunged from official records.

EXPURGATE

to remove all bad parts, censor

- ☑ **Syn.** make palatable, purify
- * **Ant.** endorse, permit
- ☒ Government propagandists expurgated all negative references to the dictator from the film.

EXQUISITE Adj.

delicious, of consummate excellence, impeccable

- ☑ **Syn.** beautiful, fine, superb, lovely
- * **Ant.** unattractive, hideous, unsightly
- ☒ I have just bought an exquisite piece of crystal.

EXTEMPORANEOUS – unrehearsed, at the spur of the moment

- ☑ **Syn.** unprepared, impromptu
- * **Ant.** premeditated, planned
- ☒ Jyoti gave an extemporaneous performance of a skit at her surprise birthday party.

EXTENUATING Adj., EXTENUATE V.,**EXTENUATION N.**

palliating, reducing the guilt in a crime

- ☑ **Syn.** mitigating, justifying
- * **Ant.** implicating, corroborating
- ☒ The extenuating circumstances of the crime helped him secure bail.

EXTINCTION

end of a living thing or species

- ☑ **Syn.** eradication, elimination
- * **Ant.** survival, activation
- ☒ The dodo was hunted to extinction by man many years ago.

EXTIRPATE V., EXTIRPATION N.

to root out, wipe out

- ☒ The military rulers have tried to extirpate all opposition.

EXTOL

to praise

- ☑ **Syn.** panegyriser, laud
- * **Ant.** criticise, demean
- ☒ The salesman extolled the virtues of the used car but failed to convince the customer.

EXTREMITY

outermost or farthest point

- ☑ **Syn.** fringe, margin
- * **Ant.** inside, middle
- ☒ The extremities of the body, such as toes, are vulnerable to frostbite in extreme cold weather.

EXTRICATE

to free from, disentangle

- ☑ **Syn.** liberate, loosen
- * **Ant.** entangle, involve
- ☒ The fly was unable to extricate itself from the spider's web.

EXTRINSIC

not inherent or essential, coming from outside

- ☑ **Syn.** adventitious, extraneous
- * **Ant.** intrinsic, internal
- ☒ The animal population in the jungle is affected by extrinsic factors like encroachment and poaching.

EXUBERANT Adj., EXUBERANCE N.

lively, effusive, enthusiastic

- ☑ **Syn.** excited, lively, energetic
- * **Ant.** lethargic, tired, weary, languid
- ☒ He is a classical dancer with an exuberant, flamboyant style.

EXUDE

to give off, ooze

- ☑ **Syn.** emanate, send out
- * **Ant.** absorb, take up
- ☒ The candidate exuded an aura of self-confidence, impressing the interviewers.

EXULT V., EXULTANT Adj., EXULTATION N.

to rejoice exceedingly, to triumph

- ☑ **Syn.** revel, take pride, gloat, glory
- ☒ An exultant Steffi Graff cheered the crowd at *Roland Garros* after winning the French Open.
- ☒ In their exultation, the crowd threatened to strom the ground and mob their team after the match.

“F”

FABRICATE

to devise, construct

- ☑ **Syn.** make, create
- ★ **Ant.** destroy, dismantle
- ☒ Rohit fabricates wonderful stories in self-defence, whenever he is caught doing something wrong.

FACADE (*FASAAD*) N.

the exterior face of a building, appearance, face, the face you show to the world

- ☑ **Syn.** frontage, portico, fascia, front
- ☒ The peaceful situation is a mere facade; there is a volcano simmering within.
- ☒ The DTF shopping mall in Gurgaon has a complete glass and steel facade.

FACILE

very easy

- ☑ **Syn.** simplistic, schematic
- ★ **Ant.** profound, thorough
- ☒ She was alarmingly facile when it came to telling lies; they seemed to roll off her tongue.

FACILITATE

to aid, assist

- ☑ **Syn.** enable, expedite
- ★ **Ant.** impede, obstruct
- ☒ The organisers tried to facilitate social interaction among the delegates by arranging informal games.

FACTIOUS Adj., FACTION N.

turbulent, given to faction, seditious

- ☑ **Syn.** defiant, rebellious, insubordinate
- ★ **Ant.** obedient, compliant, amenable
- ☒ The factious teens can go to extremes if their wishes are not fulfilled.
- ☒ There have been hundreds of factions in Congress party.

FAD N.

a transient hobby or craze, an unimportant belief

- ☑ **Syn.** fashion, trend, vogue, whim, cult
- ☒ A palm-top is the latest fad among young executives.

FAIT ACCOMPLI N.

an accomplished fact, a thing already done and cannot be changed

- ☒ The widening cyberspace is a fait accompli now.

FALLACIOUS

wrong, unsound, illogical

- ☑ **Syn.** inaccurate, misguided
- ★ **Ant.** true, correct
- ☒ "The Earth is flat" is a fallacious statement.

FALLOW Adj.

left unsown after tilling

- ☑ **Syn.** uncultivated, unsown, crop-free
- ★ **Ant.** refined, cultured, educated
- ☒ Farmers have been told they cannot be eligible for government support unless they leave a certain amount of land fallow.

FAMISH V., FAMISHED Adj.

to feel very hungry

- ☒ To a famished palate no food is insipid.
- ☒ They were tired and famished after long trek across the desert.

FANATIC Adj., N., FANATICISM N.

extravagantly or unreasonably zealous, excessively enthusiastic

- ☑ **Syn.** extremist, uncompromising
- ☒ Religious fanaticism leads to bigotry.
- ☒ The fanatic youth in Pakistan burnt effigies of Musharraf for his support to Bush administration.

FANCIFUL Adj.

whimsical, visionary

- ☑ **Syn.** imaginary, fantastic, unlikely
- ☒ He ideas may sound fanciful but he is a true visionary.

FARCE N., FARCICAL Adj.

broad comedy, mockery

- ☑ **Syn.** shambles, travesty, circus, sham
- ☒ The whole show turned out to be a farce.
- ☒ You have put me into a farcical situation.

FASCISM

an extremely authoritarian form of a government

- ☑ **Syn.** despotism, dictatorship, tyranny
- ☒ Mussolini played a key role in the rise of fascism in Italy in the 1920s.

FASTIDIOUS

careful with details, finicky

- ☑ **Syn.** meticulous, painstaking
- ★ **Ant.** careless, sloppy
- ☒ Ajay was normally so fastidious that Leena was astonished to find his desk cluttered.

FATUOUS Adj.

silly, imbecilic, foolish, idiotic

- ☑ **Syn.** stupid, childish, inane, absurd
- ★ **Ant.** sensible, rational, reasonable
- ☒ He made some sort of fatuous suggestion about standing on a chair to do the job.

FAUNA N.

the animals living in a region or in a particular period

- ☒ She took part in an expedition to explore and describe the flora and fauna of the Amazon basin.

FAUX PAS (*FO PA*)

a disastrous blunder, a very big mistake

- ☒ He committed a faux pas by walking in front of the dignitary instead of staying two steps behind.

FAWN V., N., **FAWNING** Adj.

a young deer; to flatter in a servile way; courting favour by cringing and flattering

- ☑ **Syn.** yellowish-brown, beige, mushroom, buff
- ☒ The fawning hangers-on of a filmstar lead a parasite-like life.
- ☒ The journalists fawned over her like she was some sort of a queen.

FAZE V.

to disturb the composure of, disconcert

- ☑ **Syn.** discomfit, rattle
- * **Ant.** relax, relieve
- ☒ After suffering the trauma of being a prisoner of war for five years, nothing fazed him anymore.

FEASIBLE

possible, capable of being done

- ☑ **Syn.** viable, practicable
- * **Ant.** impossible, non-viable
- ☒ As it was not feasible to distribute free CDs, the music store decided to consider a different method of promotion.

FECKLESS

ineffective, careless

- ☑ **Syn.** irresponsible, incompetent
- * **Ant.** worthy, competent
- ☒ Anju took on the responsibility of caring for her aged mother, realising that her feckless brother was not up to the task.

FECUND

fertile, fruitful

- ☑ **Syn.** productive, generative
- * **Ant.** barren, degenerative
- ☒ The outsourcing idea appeared useless in the beginning but turned out to be very fecund for the organisation.

FEIGN N., **FEIGNED** Adj.

to pretend, disguise

- ☑ **Syn.** put on, simulate, act as if, invent
- ☒ Foxes often feign death to catch an easy prey.
- ☒ The servant feigned ignorance during police interrogation, casting a shadow on his possible involvement in the crime.

FEISTY

excitable, easily drawn into quarrels

- ☑ **Syn.** snappish, irritable
- * **Ant.** cool-tempered, unirritable
- ☒ The feisty old lady alienated her neighbours with her habit of picking up fights with anyone who crossed her.

FELICITOUS Adj., **FELICITATION** N.

very appropriate, pertinent, well chosen, fortunate, fit, suitable, pleasant

- ☑ **Syn.** lucky, blessed, fortuitous
- * **Ant.** out of luck, hapless, unfortunate
- ☒ He thanked the retiring director for his contribution, summing up his achievements in a few felicitous phrases.

FELINE Adj.

like a cat

- ☑ **Syn.** catlike, slinky, subtle, graceful
- ☒ The feline grace of Madhu Sapre on the ramps made her a super model.

FELON N., **FELONY** N.

a person who has committed a serious crime

- ☑ **Syn.** criminal, murderer, thief
- ☒ The weak laws embolden felony.

FEROCIOUS Adj., **FEROCITY** N.

savage, fierce, cruel

- ☑ **Syn.** vicious, violent, brutal, very bad
- * **Ant.** calm, kind, tender, moderate
- ☒ She fought the robbers with the ferocity of a lioness.
- ☒ The prime minister came in for some ferocious criticism from the opposition.

FERRET V.

to investigate carefully and reveal

- ☑ **Syn.** hunt, rummage, furrow, flush
- ☒ I know his name but I haven't yet managed to ferret out his address.

FERVENT Adj., **FERVOUR** N.

hot, ardent, zealous, passionate, fervid, full of strong and sincere emotions, impassioned

- ☑ **Syn.** keen, avid, eager, burning
- * **Ant.** unresponsive, apathetic
- ☒ It was a debate which aroused fervent ethical arguments.
- ☒ There was no holding back the crowd's fervour when Ronaldo arrived on the field.

FERVID

passionate, intense, zealous

- ☑ **Syn.** whole-hearted, heartfelt
- * **Ant.** half-hearted, dispassionate
- ☒ His fans were particularly fervid, doing anything to catch a glimpse of the great singer.

FESTER V.

to cause increasing irritation, to exist in a state of progressive deterioration, rankle

- ☒ The municipal corporation allowed slums to fester and today they have become a nuisance for the authorities.

FETE N.

a festival, a holiday

- ☑ **Syn.** bazaar, fair, gala, party
- ☒ They're holding the college fete on the greens adjacent to the auditorium.

FETID Adj.

stinking, having a foul odour, malodorous

- ☑ **Syn.** rotten, putrid
- ★ **Ant.** fresh, fragrant
- ☒ The fetid air of the prison cell made her vomit.

FETISH N.

anything which a person irrationally reveres or worships, charm, obsession, talisman, amulet

- ☑ **Syn.** thing, fixation, mania, inclination
- ☒ That old, chewed-up square of blanket is of our dog's fetish.
- ☒ He has a fetish for cleanliness.

FETTER V., N.

to restrain from motion; a chain or shackle on the feet

- ☑ **Syn.** tie, bind, chain, confine
- ☒ You cannot be unconventional when you are fettered by traditions.
- ☒ He broke the fetters loose and escaped from a high security prison.

FEUDAL Adj.

pertaining to feuds of fiefs, belonging to feudalism

- ☒ For years the feudal system followed in India was responsible for the misery of poor farmers.

FIASCO

disaster, utter failure

- ☑ **Syn.** debacle, wreck
- ★ **Ant.** success, triumph
- ☒ After the lead guitarist turned up drunk, it was hardly surprising that the concert ended up being an utter fiasco.

FICTITIOUS Adj., FICTION N.

imaginary, invented, made-up, unreal

- ☑ **Syn.** untrue, fabricated, invented
- ★ **Ant.** factual, truthful, realistic, honest
- ☒ The actor has dismissed the recent rumours about his private life as fictitious and malicious.

FIDELITY

loyalty, constancy

- ☑ **Syn.** devotedness, faithfulness
- ★ **Ant.** disloyalty, infidelity
- ☒ A traitor is someone whose fidelity is questionable.

FIGMENT N.

a fabrication or invention, fiction

- ☑ **Syn.** creation, illusion, fantasy
- ☒ Ghosts are just figments of one's imagination.

FILCH V.

to steal, burglarise, appropriate, to steal in a sneaky way (usually something of minor value)

- ☑ **Syn.** steal, pinch, rob, thief, snatch
- ☒ Don't filch any of those cookies before they've had time to cool.

FILIGREE N.

delicate, lacelike metalwork

- ☒ The sunlight shining through the branches made a filigree pattern on the tiles.

FILLIP V.

to stimulate, incite

- ☑ **Syn.** boost, tonic, spur, impetus, zest
- ☒ The government intends to provide a fillip to infrastructure development in India.

FILTH N.

obscenity, foul matter

- ☑ **Syn.** dirt, grime, refuse, debris
- ☒ People complained in the press about the filth on the roads .

FINESSE N.

highly artful, skilled, superb technique, adroitness

- ☑ **Syn.** skill, flair, grace, elegance, poise
- ★ **Ant.** clumsiness, awkwardness
- ☒ She has handled these difficult negotiations with tremendous finesse.

FINICKY

fussy, difficult to please

- Syn.** exacting, over-critical
- * **Ant.** encouraging, undemanding
- The finicky child rejected every dish on the menu much to the exasperation of his parents.

FISSION – process of splitting into two parts

- Syn.** separation, disjuncture
- * **Ant.** fusion, combination
- The discovery of the process of nuclear fission enabled scientists to construct the atom bomb.

FITFUL Adj.

spasmodic, intermittent

- Syn.** disturbed, restless, sporadic
- * **Ant.** unbroken, constant, steady
- I had a fitful sleep last night.

FLABBERGASTED Adj., **FLABBERGAST** V.

stunned, confounded, confused

- Syn.** shocked, staggered, amazed
- The successive exposure of scams flabbergasted the Indian populace.
- The flabbergasted photographer couldn't react when Britney Spears spat on him.

FLACCID Adj.

flabby, loose, not firm, drooping, not competent

- Syn.** sagging, lifeless
- * **Ant.** firm, solid, hard, rigid, secure
- The flaccid leadership at the company was responsible for its fall.

FLAGRANT

outrageous, shameless

- Syn.** blatant, brazen
- * **Ant.** unobtrusive, slight
- His flagrant disregard for the rules resulted in his dismissal from the job.

FLAIR N.

a natural aptitude for some art, game or trait

- Syn.** style, finesse, flamboyance
- The head of the department has a great flair for public speaking.

FLAMBOYANT

flashy, garish, exciting, dazzling

- Syn.** showy, ostentatious
- * **Ant.** modest, restrained
- The actor's flamboyant clothing made him stick out among the crowd.

FLAUNT V.

to display in an impudent, brazen, ostentatious or gaudy manner, to show off

- Syn.** exhibit, display, parade
- Guys love flaunting their bikes and girls their mobiles.

FLAY V.

to remove the skin from, to subject to severe criticism

- Syn.** whip, lash, thrash, criticise
- In Pakistan, liars and robbers are flayed.
- In prehistoric times, people used flint to flay the animals they killed.

FLEDGLING N.

novice, unexperienced, tyro

- Syn.** baby bird, baby chicken
- The current economic climate is particularly difficult for fledgling businesses.

FLEECE N., V.

wool coat of a sheep; to strip of money or property by fraud or extortion

- Syn.** swindle, con, rip off, cheat
- The bureaucrats fleeced him but did not manage a licence for him.

FLICK N., V.

a quick, light blow or stroke; the slight sound; a movie

- Syn.** brush, tap, flip
- Cows flick their tails to brush away flies annoying them.
- Are you coming to watch the latest Bond flick this Saturday at the multiplex?

FLIMSY Adj.

weak, thin, without strength

- Syn.** fragile, delicate, insubstantial
- * **Ant.** strong, powerful, muscular
- She looked sensuous and seductive in a flimsy night gown.
- The storm flattened the flimsy wooden huts that the villagers lived in.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. fastidious | a. meticulous |
| 2. fecund | b. glaringly bad |
| 3. fidelity | c. fertile |
| 4. flagrant | d. loyalty |
| 5. flout | e. to disregard contemptuously |

1.(a) 2.(c) 3.(d) 4.(b) 5.(e)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

FLINCH V.

to shrink back due to pain, fear etc.

- ☑ **Syn.** recoil, strong, shy away, balk
- ☒ In spite of the anaesthetic, the patient flinched as the doctor dug his scalpel into her leg.

FLIPPANT Adj., **FLIPPANCY** N.

talkative, frivolous, impertinent, airy

- ☑ **Syn.** offhand, glib, dismissive
- * **Ant.** serious, grave, solemn, somber
- ☒ His flippancy at busy hours of work is despised by all.
- ☒ This article has been written in a very flippant style.

FLIT V.

to pass quickly from one place or condition to another

- ☒ Ramola flits from one boyfriend to another.

FLORID

gaudy, extremely ornate, ruddy, flushed

- ☑ **Syn.** flamboyant, over-elaborate
- * **Ant.** pale, plain
- ☒ The palace had been decorated in a florid style; every surface had been carved and gilded.

FLOUNDER

to falter, waver

- ☑ **Syn.** to muddle, struggle
- * **Ant.** prosper, make good progress
- ☒ The previously glib defendant began to flounder when the prosecutor found a hole in his story.

FLOUT

to treat contemptuously, scorn

- ☑ **Syn.** defy, disdain
- * **Ant.** obey rules
- ☒ The motorist flouted traffic rules and rashly cut across several lanes.

FLUCTUATE

to alternate, waver

- ☑ **Syn.** vacillate, oscillate
- * **Ant.** be steady, unequivocal
- ☒ Prices of certain stocks fluctuate so much that it is risky to invest in them.

FLUKE N.

an accidental success

- ☑ **Syn.** accident, stroke of luck
- ☒ Taiwan's success in computer hardware is not a fluke.

FLUSTER V.

confuse, a nervous state

- ☑ **Syn.** bother, agitate, upset, muddle
- * **Ant.** soothe, calm, pacify, appease
- ☒ During the enquiry he continuously flustered the cops.

FOIBLE N.

a minor weakness, short coming, defect or imperfection

- ☑ **Syn.** quirk, bad habit, eccentricity
- ☒ Great leaders have their own foibles that sometimes cost the nations greatly.

FOIL V.

defeat, frustrate

- ☑ **Syn.** thwart, outwit
- ☒ An attempted coup against the country's military ruler was foiled yesterday.

FOLIATE

to grow, sprout leaves

- ☒ The plant looked dead, so Vicky was astonished when it began to foliate.

FOMENT

to arouse or incite

- ☑ **Syn.** instigate, provoke
- * **Ant.** discourage, extinguish
- ☒ The protesters tried to foment public opinion against the war through their speeches and demonstrations.

FOOLHARDY Adj., **FOOLHARDINESS** N.

foolishly adventurous and bold; rash

- ☑ **Syn.** reckless, risky, imprudent
- * **Ant.** sensible, sane, rational, shrewd
- ☒ He made a foolhardy attempt to climb the tree in order to rescue the kitten.
- ☒ It would be foolhardiness on her part to risk all her savings on this crazy scheme.

FORAY N., V.

an attempt, a venture or expedition

- ☑ **Syn.** raid, venture, sortie, assault
- ☒ Reliance's foray into biomedical research will also be successful.
- ☒ She forayed into acting before starting a career as a model.

FOREBODE V., **FOREBODING** N.

to prognosticate, to have a premonition of evil

- ☑ **Syn.** foretell, portend, prophesy
- ☒ Forebodings about the end of the world by the year 2000 were ridiculous.

FORENSIC Adj.

relating to the application of scientific knowledge to legal problems

- ☒ Forensic examination revealed a large quantity of poison in the dead man's stomach.

FORESHADOW V.

give an indication beforehand, portend, prefigure

- ☒ The recent outbreak of violence was foreshadowed by isolated incidents in the city earlier this year.

FORESTALL

to prevent, delay, anticipate

- ☑ **Syn.** apprehend, hamper
- * **Ant.** encourage, facilitate
- ☒ The landlord waited outside the door to forestall the tenant's attempt to slip away.

FORETHOUGHT

anticipation, foresight

- ☑ **Syn.** insight, prudence
- * **Ant.** hindsight, negligence
- ☒ With a little forethought you could have made your presentation a lot more effective.

FORLORN Adj.

neglected, wretched, quite lost, forsaken

- ✗ The forlorn victims of Bhopal gas tragedy died slow deaths.

FORMIDABLE Adj.

causing fear, inspiring awe fostering respect or awe, arousing fear or worry

- ☑ **Syn.** alarming, dreadful, terrifying
- ✗ A formidable opposition is what every ruling alliance dreads.

FORMULATE

to conceive, devise, express, state

- ☑ **Syn.** to draft, plan
- ✗ The marketers formulated a new advertising strategy to launch the product in the market.

FORSAKE

to abandon, withdraw from

- ☑ **Syn.** renounce, disown
- * **Ant.** keep, return to
- ✗ Criminals on death penalty tend to feel that everyone has forsaken them.

FORSWEAR V.

renounce, abandon

- ☑ **Syn.** disavow, reject, disown, abjure
- ✗ He was courageous enough to forswear his religion by birth.

FORTE N.

something in which one excels, special strength or skill, what you're known for

- ☑ **Syn.** strong point, speciality, gift
- * **Ant.** failing, deteriorating
- ✗ Laila's forte was bellydancing but she was also an excellent ballerina.

FORTIFY V., **FORTIFICATION** N.

to strengthen, invigorate, confirm, enrich

- ☑ **Syn.** make stronger, reinforce, brace
- * **Ant.** weaken, damage, fail, wane, fade
- ✗ The Great Wall of China was made to protect Chinese territory from Mongol attacks.

FORTITUDE N.

courage in endurance, persistence, vigour

- ☑ **Syn.** courage, resilience, guts, grit
- ✗ The fortitude of Tilak was inspiring.

FORTUITOUS

happening by luck, fortunate

- ☑ **Syn.** inadvertent, accidental
- * **Ant.** predictable, foreseen
- ✗ Rukmini got her start in the music industry when she fortuitously met a talent scout during a show.

FOSTER

to nourish, cultivate, promote

- ☑ **Syn.** encourage, espouse
- * **Ant.** neglect, suppress
- ✗ The record agent fostered the development of his clients by sending them to singing lessons.

FRACAS

noisy dispute

- ☑ **Syn.** commotion, scuffle
- * **Ant.** concord, harmony
- ✗ When the bandits discovered that the gambler was cheating them at cards, violent fracas ensued.

FRACTIOUS

unruly, rebellious

- ☑ **Syn.** disobedient, uncontrollable
- * **Ant.** dutiful, contented
- ✗ The general had a hard time maintaining discipline among his fractious troops.

FRANTIC Adj.

marked by fast and nervous or anxiety driven activity

- ☑ **Syn.** anxious, frenzied, frenetic
- * **Ant.** tranquil, peaceful, calm, still
- ✗ A frantic search is on for the assassin.

FRAUDULENT

deceitful, dishonest, unethical

- ☑ **Syn.** duplicitous, unscrupulous
- * **Ant.** honest, above board
- ✗ The factory engaged in fraudulent practices, producing radios with spurious components.

FRAUGHT Adj.

filled with, laden, accompanied by

- ☑ **Syn.** burdened, full, filled
- * **Ant.** lacking, absent, missing
- ✗ Life is fraught with opportunities if you can see them.

FRENZY N., **FRENZIED** Adj.

violent excitement

- ☑ **Syn.** fury, anger, rage, passion
- * **Ant.** calmness, serenity, peace
- ✗ The frenzy of a mob on the rampage is difficult to control.
- ✗ The frenzied crowd was restless as soon as their favourite hero alighted from the plane.

FRESCO N.

a mode of painting upon walls covered with damp plaster

- ☑ **Syn.** wall painting, mural, frieze
- ✗ The frescoes of Ajanta caves were discovered by a British citizen.

FRIGID Adj., **FRIGIDITY** N.

intensely cold

- ☑ **Syn.** cold, frosty, chilly, icy, glacial
- * **Ant.** torrid, hot, stifling, scorching
- ✗ Many parts of Russia are in the frigid zone.
- ✗ Her frigidity kept people off her.

FRITTER V.

to waste away little by little, squander, dissipate

- ☑ **Syn.** dribble away
- * **Ant.** conserve, save, preserve, keep
- ✗ Do not fritter away your education in gossip and trivialities.

FRIVOLOUS Adj., **FRIVOLITY** N.

silly, trifling

- ☑ **Syn.** playful, frolicsome, flippant
- ★ **Ant.** serious, important, acute, severe
- ⊘ My friends enjoyed my frivolity in their leisure but they never took me seriously otherwise.
- ⊘ He is generally a good student but he is inclined to be frivolous in group discussions.

FROLIC N., V., **FROLICSOME** Adj.

gaiety, prank

- ☑ **Syn.** play, skip, leap, cavort, gambol
- ⊘ The kids were frolicking at the party.
- ⊘ The two teams were so unevenly matched that the game was little more than a frolic for the winning side.

FRUGAL Adj., **FRUGALITY** N.

economical, sparing, thrifty, sparing, careful about how money or goods are used

- ☑ **Syn.** thrifty, prudent, sparing
- ★ **Ant.** spendthrift, wastrel, squanderer
- ⊘ Chetna says she has enough money to last through the month but only if she is frugal in her spending.
- ⊘ Judging by their frugality, you would never guess they were rich.

FUGITIVE Adj., N.

fleeing, evanescent, wandering

- ☑ **Syn.** escapee, deserter, renegade
- ⊘ Fugitive families who fled the fighting in the cities are now trying to survive in the mountains.

FULSOME Adj.

disgustingly insincere, immoderate; overabundant, overdone, obsequious or servile

- ☑ **Syn.** flattering, excessive, immoderate
- ⊘ He earned the fulsome praise of the chief minister.
- ⊘ The fulsome chrome glitter of escalator dominated the central hall.

FUNERAL

mournful, appropriate to a funeral

- ☑ **Syn.** solemn, gloomy
- ★ **Ant.** cheerful, lively
- ⊘ Depressed by the party's funereal atmosphere, Suzanne decided to leave early.

FURORE N.

an angry or maniacal fit, frenzy; an outburst of public excitement

- ⊘ A furore erupted over the court's verdict on legalising homosexual marriages.

FURTIVE

secret, stealthy

- ☑ **Syn.** surreptitious, sly
- ★ **Ant.** open, above board
- ⊘ Glenn furtively peered out of the corner of his eye at the stunningly beautiful model.

FUSILLADE N.

simultaneous discharge of firearms, barrage, burst

- ⊘ Twenty-eight demonstrators were shot dead and 188 wounded in a five-minute fusillade of automatic fire.

FUSION – process of merging things into one

- ☑ **Syn.** amalgamation, coalescence
- ★ **Ant.** fragmentation, separation
- ⊘ Cement is formed by the fusion of shale and limestone.

FUSSY Adj.

choosy, discriminating, particular, picky

- ☑ **Syn.** finicky, selective
- ★ **Ant.** cool, relaxed, tranquil
- ⊘ The old man is fussy.
- ⊘ The children are so fussy about the food that I don't know what to cook.

FUZZY Adj.

blurred, not clear

- ☑ **Syn.** hairy, downy, blurry, unclear
- ★ **Ant.** clear, transparent, lucid
- ⊘ You can pick up a lot of stations on the car radio but the sound is usually quite fuzzy.

Biochemistry

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

BILIOUS	: affected by or associated with nausea or vomiting
CARCINOGEN	: any cancer-causing substance
CYTOLOGY	: the study of cells
DETRITUS	: decaying organic matter lying just below the surface
ENZYME	: protein which acts as a biological catalyst
IMMISCIBLE	: not capable of being mixed
LIPID	: a fatlike substance that cannot be dissolved in water
OSMOSIS	: diffusion of substance in a liquid solution across a membrane
SUBSTRATE	: any substance which is acted on or altered by an enzyme
VISCERAL	: relating to deep inward feelings rather than to intellect

“G”

GAFFE N.

a social or diplomatic blunder, mistake

☑ **Syn.** faux pas, error of judgement

* **Ant.** righteous move, correct

☒ I made a real gaffe, calling his new wife by the name of his ex-wife.

GAINSAY V.

to declare to be untrue, to deny, to contradict, to dispute

☑ **Syn.** oppose, naysay, refute

* **Ant.** agree, concur

☒ There's no gainsaying the technical brilliance of his performance but one might have hoped for a little more feeling.

GALE N.

a strong wind; an emotional outburst

☒ Gales of laughter broke out after he completed the joke.

GALL N., V.

bitterness, nerve, brazen boldness; vex

☑ **Syn.** irritate, infuriate, provoke

* **Ant.** please, entertain

☒ I don't know how she can have the gall to accuse other people of inefficiency when she's the most incompetent person!

☒ The loose saddle galled the horse's back.

GALLANT Adj., GALLANTRY N.

brave, noble, attentive to ladies; splendid, stately

☑ **Syn.** chivalrous, grand, fine, dashing

* **Ant.** coward, unchivalrous, dastard

☒ Despite fierce competition she made a gallant effort to win the first medal of the championships.

☒ It would appear that there are not many gallant men left in the big cities, the way women are pushed around in the crowd.

GALORE Adv.

in abundance, plentiful

☑ **Syn.** in great quantity

* **Ant.** meagre, in short supply

☒ And for the sweet-toothed, this café has desserts galore.

GALVANISE V.

stimulate by shock, stir up; to coat with zinc

☑ **Syn.** rouse, animate, incite

* **Ant.** make dull

☒ The prospect of his mother coming to stay galvanised him into action and he immediately set about cleaning the house.

GAMBIT N.

an initial move, sacrifice for gain later on

☑ **Syn.** ploy, manoeuvre, scheme

☒ Her clever opening gambit gave her an early advantage.

GAMBOL V.

to frisk and frolic, leap playfully

☒ Seeing her gambol in the amusement park, I remembered my childhood.

GAMELY Adv.

in a spirited manner, with courage

☑ **Syn.** willingly, gladly, voluntarily

* **Ant.** grudgingly, ungenerously

☒ Though outclassed, he fought on gamely against the superior adversary and won the applause of the audience.

GAMUT N.

the whole spectrum or range of anything, the full extent

☑ **Syn.** range, scale, breadth, array

☒ In her stories she expresses the whole gamut of emotions from happiness to sorrow.

GARBLE V.

to mangle or mutilate, misrepresent, misconstrue

☑ **Syn.** confuse, muddle, distort, jumble

* **Ant.** arrange properly, display, pose

☒ He left a rather garbled message on my answering machine.

GARGANTUAN

giant, tremendous

☑ **Syn.** enormous, monstrous

* **Ant.** tiny, minuscule

☒ Strangely, for some teenagers, it is a gargantuan task to maintain a little order.

Civil Law

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

BILK	:	withhold money by deceit or without justification
CHATTEL	:	movable property (not attached to land)
CODICIL	:	a legal document which adds to or changes the provisions of a will
DEMUR	:	to claim that even if another party's facts are true there is no legitimate claim or legal recourse
FIDUCIARY	:	one charged with the legal responsibility for administering and/or managing another's assets
NOVATION	:	substitution of a new contract or obligation for an existing one
QUITCLAIM	:	to transfer or relinquish title in property to another without any representation as to one's legal authority to do so
RECIDIVISM	:	tending to go back to crime
SUBROGATE	:	to substitute one party (e.g., a creditor) for another
VEST	:	to attain a right or interest without possibility of losing it

GARISH Adj.

showy, gaudy, flamboyant, ostentatious

☑ **Syn.** dazzling, showy, tawdry, kitschy

* **Ant.** germane, apt, regular

☞ The sets of most Hindi films are garish.

GARNER

to gather and store

☑ **Syn.** amass, stockpile

* **Ant.** disperse, dissemble

☞ The businessman managed to garner finance from several sources for his next project.

GARRULOUS Adj., **GARRULITY** N.

a person who talks a lot, extremely talkative, loquacious, gabby, verbose

☑ **Syn.** loquacious, chattering, babbling

* **Ant.** taciturn, monosyllabic, subdued

☞ After his daughter's birth, the normally shy Rohan turned garrulous, telling endless stories about his new and perfect child.

GASTRONOME N.

a person who relishes drinks and food, epicure,

☑ **Syn.** connoisseur, bon vivant

☞ Delhi is the Mecca of gastronomes.

GAUCHE Adj.

clumsy, tactless

☑ **Syn.** maladroit, inept

* **Ant.** debonair, suave

☞ The finishing school transforms the gauche into suave.

GAUNT Adj.

excessively thin and angular; barren

☞ Supermodel Giselle Bundchen has a characteristic long gaunt face.

GELID Adj.

very cold, icy (said of people's attitudes as well as of substances)

☑ **Syn.** frozen, chilled, dormant

* **Ant.** warm, in action

☞ The haughty old queen gave her subjects a brief, gelid smile as she informed them that their audience was over.

GENEALOGY N.

a history or study of the descent of a family, ancestry, pedigree

☞ My father has produced a genealogy of our family going back to 1732.

GENERIC Adj., N

having a wide application, of a type of class, comprehensive, universal

☑ **Syn.** basic, common, standard

* **Ant.** explicit, exact, unambiguous

☞ Xerox has become a generic term for photocopiers.

GENESIS N.

generation, production

☑ **Syn.** origin, start, birth

* **Ant.** end, armageddon

☞ Banker-broker nexus was the genesis of the Bombay bank scam.

☞ Scientists are carrying out research into the genesis of cancer.

GENIAL Adj., **GENIALITY** N.

kindly, healthful

☑ **Syn.** kind, affable, gracious, amiable

* **Ant.** antagonistic, inhospitable

☞ The geniality of those who receive or deal with the customers in any business plays a critical role in its success.

☞ The headteacher is an easy-going genial man.

GENOCIDE N., **GENOCIDAL** Adj.

deliberate extermination of a race or group etc.

☞ The genocide of Jews by Hitler was heinous.

☞ Saddam's genocidal policy towards Kurds in northern Iraq was sheer barbarism.

GENRE

type, class, category

☑ **Syn.** ilk, variety

☞ My sister loves mysteries, but I can't stand that genre of books.

GENUFLECT V.

to bend the knee as in worship

☞ Thousands of Muslims genuflect simultaneously while offering *namaz* at the *Jama Masjid*.

GERMANE Adj.

something relevant, suitable, pertinent, proper, appropriate

☑ **Syn.** useful, connected, of interest

* **Ant.** immaterial, extraneous

☞ Her remarks could not have been more germane to the discussion.

GERONTOCRACY N.

government ruled by the old people

☞ *Gulliver's Travels* describes gerontocracy in a country where the young are made to serve and the old rule.

GESTATION

growth process from conception to birth

☑ **Syn.** incubation, maturation

☞ The longer the gestation period of an organism, the more developed is its baby at birth.

GESTICULATE V., **GESTICULATION** N.

to make vigorous and expressive signals or gestures

☑ **Syn.** wave, signal, sign, indicate

☞ In *Kathakali*, the dancers convey their story using gesticulations and facial expressions.

☞ As he became more excited, he gesticulated more and more wildly.

GHASTLY Adj.

terrifyingly horrible to the senses

- ☑ **Syn.** terrible, frightening, appalling
- * **Ant.** pleasant, enjoyable, agreeable
- ☒ She was wearing the most ghastly outfit you've ever seen.

GIBBER V., **GIBBERISH** N.

to utter senseless or inarticulate talk

- ☑ **Syn.** babble, rant, prattle, prate
- ☒ Don't you gibber in the presence of royalty.
- ☒ Stop that gibberish and tell us exactly what you saw.

GIBE V., N.

to scoff at, to make fun of, deride, tease with rude remarks

- ☑ **Syn.** mock, tease, jeer, joke, laugh
- ☒ The gibes should be well directed so that they entertain and not irritate.

GILD V.

to cover with gold or gold-like substance

- ☑ **Syn.** make golden, paint gold
- ☒ If you gild the lily you try to improve or decorate something which is already perfect and therefore spoil it.

GIRTH

circumference, width

- ☒ The young boy marvelled at the girth of the peepul tree.

GINGERLY Adj.

very carefully

- ☑ **Syn.** cautious, delicate, gentle
- ☒ Eggs should always be cracked gingerly especially when you want to separate the white from the yolk.

GIRTH N.

a measure around the body, circumference

- ☒ Deepak has been growing in girth ever since he moved to Delhi.

GLARING Adj., **GLARE** V., N.

highly conspicuous, harshly bright

- ☑ **Syn.** conspicuous, obvious, obtrusive
- * **Ant.** inconspicuous, ordinary, subtle
- ☒ Those wearing glaring clothes will attract a lot of attention and some jeer too.

GLIB

fluent in an insincere manner, offhand, casual

- ☑ **Syn.** loquacious, disingenuous
- * **Ant.** sincere, inarticulate
- ☒ The slimy politician managed to gain support because he was a glib speaker.

GLIMMER N., V.

feeble rays of light, faint perception

- ☑ **Syn.** twinkle, shine, gleam, spark
- ☒ I see a glimmer of intelligence in that young lad.

GLOAT V.

to look with intense, malicious satisfaction

- ☑ **Syn.** revel, take pride, glory, triumph
- * **Ant.** lament, mourn, grieve, bewail
- ☒ She won't stop gloating over her new job.

GLOOM N., **GLOOMY** Adj.

partial darkness, cloudiness, hopelessness

- ☑ **Syn.** obscurity, shade, shadow, murk
- * **Ant.** brightness, intensity, clarity
- ☒ The article about pollution painted a picture of gloom.
- ☒ A gloomy atmosphere prevailed in the colony where an elderly couple were murdered the previous night.

GLUT V., N.

to feed to satiety, to saturate, to flood

- ☑ **Syn.** excess, surplus, superfluity
- * **Ant.** shortage, scarcity, deficiency
- ☒ The glut of electronic goods reflects rampant consumerism.

GLUTINOUS Adj.

sticky, gummy

- ☒ The glutinous gel that I plastered my hair with is difficult to wash off.

GLUTTONOUS Adj., **GLUTTON** N.

voracious, ravenous; a greedy eater

- ☑ **Syn.** insatiable, excessive
- ☒ He is gluttonous and obviously suffers from obesity.
- ☒ For a glutton, he was remarkably slim.

GLUTTONY

eating and drinking in excess

- ☑ **Syn.** greediness, voracity
- * **Ant.** abstinence, moderation
- ☒ After all the gluttony at the party, the guests took days to recover their appetite.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. forsake | a. secretive |
| 2. fortuitous | b. abandon |
| 3. furtive | c. accidental |
| 4. garrulous | d. type of art |
| 5. genre | e. chatty |

1.(b) 2.(c) 3.(a) 4.(e) 5.(d)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

GNARL V.

snarl, growl; twist into a state of deformity

- ☒ The man gnarled but was helpless with so many policemen surrounding him with guns drawn.
- ☒ The sight of the old gnarled tree reminded the poet about an old man.

GNOME N.

a dwarf (like an old man) living in a cave

- ☒ **Syn.** sprite, goblin, troll, leprechaun
- ☒ The gnomes in children's books are always kind and magical but some are quite mischievous.

GOAD N., V.

a sharp pointed stick to drive animals, a stimulus, an instrument or prod used to stimulate action

- ☒ **Syn.** provoke, drive, prod, push
- * **Ant.** calm, tranquil, peaceful, still, cool
- ☒ They may hate you but you must continue to goad the students to put in regular hours for their own good.
- ☒ The cowherd made cruel use of his goad to make the animals move faster.

GOBBLE V.

to swallow hastily, to eat greedily

- ☒ **Syn.** guzzle, bolt, gorge, gulp
- * **Ant.** nibble, chew, gnaw, bite, eat
- ☒ Expanding cities are gobbling up agricultural land.

GORGE N., V.

a ravine; to stuff to capacity

- ☒ **Syn.** canyon, defile, gap, chasm
- ☒ He was only interested in gorging at the party and did not bother to talk to anybody.
- ☒ The gorges cut out by the Colorado river in California make a spectacular sight.

GORY Adj.

bloodstained

- ☒ The gory details of the rape and subsequent murder of Hannah Foster shocked British society.

GOSSAMER Adj., N.

sheer, like cobwebs, substantial

- ☒ **Syn.** delicate, flimsy, gauzy
- * **Ant.** robust, vigorous, hearty
- ☒ The women stood about in the summer evening, their gossamer dresses stirring in the breeze.

GOURMAND N.

one who is excessively fond of eating and drinking

- ☒ **Syn.** glutton, gastronome, foodie
- ☒ The gourmand visited bylanes of *Chandni Chowk* trying out every dish that came his way.

GOURMET N.

an epicure, a person with very fine taste of food and drink

- ☒ **Syn.** gastronome, connoisseur
- ☒ Our speciality food will appeal to the gourmet.

GRANDEUR N.

impressiveness, stateliness, majesty

- ☒ **Syn.** splendour, opulence, majesty
- * **Ant.** austerity, severity, strictness
- ☒ The grandeur of Taj at night captivates the tourists.

GRANDILOQUENT Adj. GRANDILOQUENCE N.

pompous, bombastic, using high-sounding language

- ☒ **Syn.** pompous, pretentious, verbose
- * **Ant.** straightforward, easy, basic
- ☒ He was a performer who loved making grandiloquent gestures.
- ☒ Her speech was full grandiloquence but offered no new ideas.

GRANDIOSE

magnificent and imposing, exaggerated and pretentious

- ☒ **Syn.** resplendent, ostentatious
- * **Ant.** unimpressive, humble
- ☒ The house had a grandiose facade that hid its humble interior.

GRAPPLE V.

wrestle, come to grips with

- ☒ **Syn.** struggle, fight, tackle, seize
- * **Ant.** let go, release, liberate, free
- ☒ She grappled with the problem but could not find a solution.

GRATE V.

to rub hard or wear away, grind, file, grit

- ☒ **Syn.** shred, scrape, rasp, annoy
- * **Ant.** please, satisfy, gratify, delight
- ☒ After a while her voice really started to grate on me.
- ☒ I agreed to grate the carrots so that my mother could make her tasty *Gajar Halwa* in the evening.

GRATIS Adj.

without payment, free, complimentary

- ☒ **Syn.** on the house, complimentary
- ☒ The hangers-on are forever looking for gratis goods.

GRATUITOUS Adj.

done for nothing, uncalled for, unwarranted, offered freely, not necessary under the circumstances

- ☒ **Syn.** free, complimentary
- * **Ant.** compulsory
- ☒ A lot of viewers complained that there was too much gratuitous sex and violence in the film.

GRATUITY

something given voluntarily, tip

- ☒ **Syn.** gift, fringe benefit
- ☒ Many restaurants add an 18 percent gratuity to the bill if the dining party is large enough.

GREGARIOUS Adj.

fond of the company of others, sociable, extroverted, fond of groups, convivial

- ☒ **Syn.** outgoing, sociable, social
- * **Ant.** shy, introverted, withdrawn
- ☒ Emma is a gregarious, outgoing sort of person.

GRIMACE

facial expression showing pain or disgust

☑ **Syn.** frown, pout

* **Ant.** smile, grin

☒ The manager grimaced when his wife, drunk as usual, spilled coffee on the boss.

GRIMY

dirty, filthy

☑ **Syn.** unclean, grubby

* **Ant.** clean, sterile

☒ Betty was displeased when her date showed up in dirty clothes.

GRISLY Adj.

ghastly, frightfully, macabre

☑ **Syn.** gruesome, horrible, shocking

* **Ant.** pleasant, amiable, congenial

☒ The newspaper described a series of grisly murders where people had been hacked to death.

GRIT N.

persistence, stamina; sand

☑ **Syn.** gravel, shingle, determination

* **Ant.** cowardice, fearfulness, fear

☒ She is a person with a lot of grit and determination.

GROSS(adj.)

obscene, blatant, flagrant

(v) – make, earn, bring in

☑ **Syn.** vulgar, indecent

* **Ant.** pure, refined

☒ Spike's comment that he liked the casual look was a gross understatement.

GROTESQUE Adj.

absurd, fantastic, unnatural, distorted, ugly

☑ **Syn.** ugly, gross, fantastic, bizarre

* **Ant.** attractive, good looking

☒ His attempt to appear young was grotesque and embarrassing.

☒ Gothic churches are full of devils and grotesque figures.

GROUSE V., N.

complain, fuss; a reddish brown game bird

☑ **Syn.** complaint, grumble, moan, nag

☒ Give the new hostellers a little time and soon they will stop grouching about inconveniences.

GROVEL V.

to crawl due to fear, to behave servilely

☑ **Syn.** plead, beg, cringe

☒ I will apologise to him but I won't grovel.

GRUELLING Adj.

severe, tough, demanding, exhausting, tiring, punishing

☒ Junior doctors often have to work a gruelling 100-hour week.

GRUESOME Adj.

macabre, bloody, ghastly, gory, grim

☑ **Syn.** grisly, horrible, horrid

* **Ant.** pleasant, enjoyable, agreeable

☒ The gruesome tale of the Bhopal gas tragedy can be read on the faces of its victims.

GRUFF Adj.

rough-mannered

☑ **Syn.** grumpy, bad tempered, snippy

* **Ant.** friendly, gracious, responsive

☒ She spoke to me in a gruff voice, obviously annoyed that she had been disturbed.

GUILD N.

an association for mutual aid or help

☑ **Syn.** association, union, league, club

☒ The city's Writers' Guild could not help the author when his story was allegedly plagiarised.

GUILE

trickery, deception

☑ **Syn.** craftiness, deviousness

* **Ant.** candour, honesty

☒ Gautam acquired the job with guile, even claiming to be a retired army officer.

GUISE N.

external appearance, manner, behaviour, dress

☑ **Syn.** semblance, show, pretext, excuse

☒ Opportunity often knocks in the guise of a setback.

GULLIBLE Adj., **GULLIBILITY** N.

a person easily deceived, easy to fool, ingenuous

☑ **Syn.** naive, susceptible

* **Ant.** smart, elegant, neat

☒ The local tourist guides delight gullible Western tourists with unlikely stories.

GUNG-HO Adj.

enthusiastic, eager, zealous

☑ **Syn.** competitive, bloodthirsty

* **Ant.** passive, inert, inactive, reflexive

☒ Tushar is gung-ho about the market prospects for the next year.

GUSTATORY Adj.

relevant to the sense of tasting

☒ The wine produces a whole range of gustatory sensations.

GUSTO N.

enjoyment, enthusiasm

☑ **Syn.** delight, pleasure, zest

* **Ant.** apathy, indifference, lethargy

☒ It is his habit to accept every assignment with gusto.

GUTTURAL Adj.

pertaining to the throat

☑ **Syn.** harsh, rasping, rough, throaty

* **Ant.** silky, melodious, harmonious

☒ Two Egyptians were arguing outside the room, their voices loud and guttural.

GYPSY N.

traveller, rover

☒ There was something strange about the gypsy who offered to tell me my fortune.

“H”

HACKNEYED

worn out by overuse

- ☑ **Syn.** cliched, vapid
- * **Ant.** original, fresh
- ☒ We always mock the old man for his hackneyed expressions and dated style.

HAEMATOLOGY N.

study of blood

- ☒ Haematology has come centre-stage due to the rampant spread of AIDS.

HAEMORRHAGE

heavy bleeding

- ☒ The haemorrhage would have killed the soldier but for the brave nurse's timely action.

HAGGARD N.

an untamed hawk; wild in appearance

- ☑ **Syn.** worn, fatigued, tired, faded
- * **Ant.** fresh, new, clean, bright
- ☒ After hours of dragging out bodies from the mangled train compartments, the rescuers were looking haggard and distraught.

HALCYON Adj.

calm, peaceful

- ☑ **Syn.** untroubled, calm, peaceful, happy, golden
- * **Ant.** turbulent, confused, unstable
- ☒ The statistics that you are quoting about the company are of its halcyon days.

HALLOW V., HALLOWED Adj.

to make holy, venerate

- ☑ **Syn.** consecrate, sanctify, bless
- * **Ant.** damage, vandalise, defile, despoil
- ☒ My mother hallows the *puja room* every morning by sprinkling *gangajal*.
- ☒ It was a dream come true as I walked through the hallowed portals of IIMA.

HALLUCINATION N., HALLUCINATE V.

a delusion, a perception without objective reality

- ☑ **Syn.** vision, illusion, phantasm
- ☒ I hallucinated that a big spider was spinning its web around me.

HAMLET N.

a cluster of houses, community, village

- ☑ **Syn.** settlement, small town
- ☒ She used to live in a remote hamlet consisting of just 20 houses and a temple.

HANGAR N.

a shelter for aircraft

- ☑ **Syn.** shed, barn, store, storage place
- ☒ The plane had to parked in the open as there was no room in the hangar.

HAPLESS Adj.

unlucky, unfortunate

- ☑ **Syn.** ill-fated, luckless
- * **Ant.** fortunate, happy, privileged
- ☒ Rural people are often the hapless victims of government apathy.

HARA-KIRI N.

Japanese way of committing suicide by disembowelment

- ☒ If the company raises its prices, it will be committing economic hara-kiri.

HARANGUE N.

a loud, pompous speech

- ☑ **Syn.** berate, criticize, sermonize
- ☒ At the railway station, a drunk was haranguing the passers-by.

HARBINGER N.

a pioneer, forerunner, herald, precursor

- ☑ **Syn.** portend, omen, indication
- ☒ Einstein was the harbinger of the concept of relativity.

HARDY

robust, vigorous

- ☑ **Syn.** sturdy, rugged
- * **Ant.** delicate, tender
- ☒ Heena was a strong, hardy girl who beat up her elder brothers every day.

HARROW V., HARROWING Adj.

to torment, vex ; acutely painful or distressing, agonising

- ☑ **Syn.** torture
- * **Ant.** comfort, ease
- ☒ Foreign tourists, especially Americans, are frequently harrowed in Islamic countries.
- ☒ I find his firsthand accounts of torture too harrowing.

HAUGHTY

arrogant and condescending

- ☑ **Syn.** vain, conceited
- * **Ant.** modest, humble
- ☒ The teacher resented Sita's haughty attitude and gave her a D grade for the semester.

HAUTEUR N.

arrogance, haughtiness

- ☑ **Syn.** conceit, pride, overconfidence
- * **Ant.** modesty, diffidence, reticence
- ☒ He presided over the first meeting with his customary detached hauteur.

HAVEN N.

a retreat or asylum

- ☑ **Syn.** refuge, safe place, sanctuary
- ☒ They wanted to provide a safe haven for the refugees.

HEADLONG Adv.

hasty, rash

- ☑ **Syn.** headfirst, recklessly
- ☒ He involves himself headlong in the affairs of others.
- ☒ In the headlong rush to buy houses, many people got into debt.

HEADSTRONG Adj.

stubborn, wilful, unyielding

- ☑ **Syn.** determined, pigheaded
- * **Ant.** docile, tractable, compliant
- ☒ Everybody calls her headstrong but she is one of the boldest in her group.

HEATHEN

pagan, uncivilised and irreligious

- ☑ **Syn.** atheist, uncouth
- * **Ant.** religious, devout
- ☒ The missionaries considered it their duty to convert as many of the heathen natives as possible.

HECKLE V.

to harass with questions, challenges and gibes

- ☒ The old inmates hackled the new one and that added to his woes.

HEDONISM

pursuit of pleasure as a goal

- ☑ **Syn.** immoderation, affluence
- * **Ant.** aversion, abhorrence
- ☒ Sanjeev lay on the couch eating cookies all day, claiming hedonism was his philosophy of life.

HEGEMONY N., HEGEMONIC Adj.

leadership, preponderant influence

- ☑ **Syn.** domination, control, supremacy
- * **Ant.** subservience, surrender
- ☒ The three nations competed for regional hegemony.

HEINOUS

shocking, wicked, terrible

- ☑ **Syn.** atrocious, reprehensible
- * **Ant.** pardonable, admirable
- ☒ Nobody could believe that the baby-sitter had committed the heinous crime.

HENCHMAN N.

a servant, a right hand man, usually doing unlawful work for someone

- ☒ Like other politicians, he tried to distance himself from the dirty deeds carried out by his henchmen.

HERALD V.

to usher in, to proclaim

- ☑ **Syn.** messenger, bearer of news, publicise
- ☒ The silicon chip heralded a new era in computer technology.

HERCULEAN Adj.

very tough, arduous, superhuman

- ☑ **Syn.** phenomenal, prodigious, heroic
- * **Ant.** normal, usual, standard, regular
- ☒ Plagued by several crises and many recent electoral defeats, the party is requires nothing short of a herculean effort from its new leader to turn things around.

HERMETIC

tightly sealed

- ☒ The hermetic seal preserved the contents of the jar for a long time.

HETERODOX Adj., HETERODOXY N.

unorthodox, unconventional

- ☑ **Syn.** heretical, profane, sacrilegious
- ☒ Famous for his heterodox ideas, Kabir was a darling of the masses.

HEW

to cut with an axe

- ☑ **Syn.** chop down, hack down
- ☒ Varun hewed down the trees in order to build a cabin.

HEYDAY N.

the best period in performance, vigour and prosperity

- ☑ **Syn.** prime, zenith, glory days
- ☒ In his heyday, Jitendra was Bollywood's most polished dancer.

HIATUS N.

a break in continuity, a gap, a lapse in action

- ☑ **Syn.** pause, interruption
- ☒ Tourists are once again visiting Kashmir after a long hiatus caused by terrorism.

HIDEBOUND

excessively rigid, dry and stiff

- ☑ **Syn.** conservative, orthodox
- ★ **Ant.** liberal, broad-minded
- ☒ The hidebound old patriarch would not tolerate any opposition to his orders.

HIDEOUS Adj.

offensive to the senses, grotesque, gruesome

- ☑ **Syn.** ugly, repugnant, shocking
- ☒ The new concrete structures look so hideous next to the simple huts in the serene village.

HIEROGLYPHIC N.

picture writing

- ☒ The hieroglyphics on the walls of the pyramid warned everyone of the danger inside.

HILARIOUS Adj., **HILARITY** N.

very funny, jolly, merry

- ☑ **Syn.** amusing, comical, entertaining
- ★ **Ant.** serious, grave, weighty
- ☒ Hilarity is improper on serious occasions.
- ☒ He tries to flirt with women half his age, with hilarious results.

HINDSIGHT

perception of events after they happen

- ☒ In hindsight, Harish realised that eating the entire box of chocolates was probably not a wise idea.

HINTERLAND N.

a region lying inland from the coast

- ☒ The hinterland of our country is very fertile and produces a number of crops.

HIRSUTE Adj., **HIRSUTISM** N.

hairy, rough, shaggy, bristly

- ☑ **Syn.** bushy, furry,
- ★ **Ant.** bald, hairless, receding, plain
- ☒ The baby looked rather hirsute but the doctor assured the new parents that there was no cause for worry.

HISPANIC Adj.

of Spanish origin, of Spain and other Spanish speaking countries

- ☒ The Hispanic culture is ancient and rich.

HISTRIONIC Adj.

dramatic, affected, of acting or drama, sometimes overly dramatic, theatrical

- ☑ **Syn.** theatrical, exaggerated, insincere
- ★ **Ant.** restrained, reserved, controlled
- ☒ Her histrionics, obviously borrowed from Hindi films, fooled no one.

HOARY

very old, whitish or gray from age

- ☑ **Syn.** venerable, hackneyed
- ★ **Ant.** original, young
- ☒ The old man's hoary beard contrasted starkly with the new stubble of the teenager.

HOAX N.

a trick, practical joke, deception

- ☑ **Syn.** flimflam, humbug
- ☒ Unfortunately some virus threats are a hoax and simply cause some panic with no real damage.

HOBBLE V., N.

to walk unsteadily or awkwardly

- ☑ **Syn.** limp, hop, shamble, totter
- ☒ The beggar hobbling along the road presented a painful sight.

HOBSON'S CHOICE

an offer where you really have no alternative, the choice between a thing offered and nothing

- ☒ When it came to food, the canteen offered us a Hobson's choice.

HOI POLLOI (Greek)

crowd, masses, general public

- ☑ **Syn.** rabble, commoners
- ★ **Ant.** elite
- ☒ Amitabh will be in the VIP lounge where he doesn't have to mix with the hoi polloi.

HOLISTIC

emphasising importance of the whole and interdependence of its parts

- ☒ Dr Anu Khanna believes in a holistic approach to healing.

HOLOCAUST

widespread destruction, usually by fire

- ☑ **Syn.** catastrophe, disaster
- ☒ The city was utterly destroyed by the holocaust.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. grandiose | a. uniform |
| 2. gregarious | b. overused |
| 3. hackneyed | c. sociable |
| 4. hapless | d. absurdly exaggerated |
| 5. homogenous | e. unlucky |

1.(d) 2.(c) 3.(b) 4.(e) 5.(a)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

HOMAGE

public honour and respect

☑ **Syn.** tribute, eulogy

* **Ant.** criticism, cynicism

☒ Upon arriving at the village, the warriors paid homage to its chief.

HOMICIDE N.

manslaughter, murder

☑ **Syn.** killing, slaughter

☒ The young man was arrested for homicide.

HOMOGENEOUS

composed of identical parts

☑ **Syn.** consistent, uniform

* **Ant.** heterogeneous, dissimilar

☒ Finland was a very homogenous country until immigrants began to settle there several decades ago.

HOMONYM

word identical in pronunciation and spelling but different in meaning

☒ "Right" as in the direction and "right" meaning "correct" are homonyms.

HONE

to sharpen

☑ **Syn.** strop, grind

* **Ant.** blunt, dull

☒ You might want to hone your writing skills before filling out college applications.

HONORARIUM N.

a voluntary fee paid to a person for his professional services

☒ We usually offer our visiting lecturers an honorarium of Rs.500 per hour.

HOOLIGAN N., HOOLIGANISM N.

a young, violent, rude person

☑ **Syn.** punk, gorilla, ruffian, hoodlum

☒ The police warned the hooligan and let him go.

☒ Hooliganism is the norm of the day when these rioting football fans meet.

HORDE N.

crowd

☑ **Syn.** crowd, mass, gang, group, pack

☒ Hordes of his admirers await his entry on the stage.

☒ When they heard the concert was free, they came in hordes.

HORS D'OEUVRE

savoury like olives, sardines etc. to whet the appetite before a meal

☒ The hors d'oeuvre tasted better than the main course at the dinner.

HOUND V.

to chase and harass, hassle, intimidate, persecute

☑ **Syn.** pursue, pester, persecute

☒ All celebrities are hounded by the press.

HOVER V.

to hang fluttering in the air, wait nearby

☑ **Syn.** float, drift, linger

☒ The plane kept hovering for an hour before landing.

HUBBUB N.

confused uproar

☑ **Syn.** noise, racket, hullabaloo, din

☒ I could hardly hear myself speak above the hubbub in the resto-bar.

HUBRIS N.

arrogance, excessive self-conceit

☒ Humility can take you places but hubris often lands you in the debris.

HUDDLE V.

to crowd together in disorder

☑ **Syn.** group, cluster, knot, bend

☒ The frightened monkeys huddled in their cage.

HUMANE

merciful, kindly

☑ **Syn.** compassionate, sympathetic

* **Ant.** cruel, inhumane

☒ The camp commander ensured that all prisoners of war received humane treatment.

HUMBUG N.

something designed to deceive or mislead, pretense

☑ **Syn.** hypocrisy, insincerity, lip service

* **Ant.** sincerity, honesty, authenticity

☒ The government's claim that it did not know about the arms deal is a lot of humbug.

HUMDRUM Adj.

dull, monotonous

☑ **Syn.** boring, routine, everyday

* **Ant.** exciting, thrilling, stirring

☒ After the metropolis, he found life in the small town quite humdrum.

HUSBANDRY N.

frugality, thrift, agriculture, careful use of resources, conservation

☒ Thanks to his husbandry, they were not short of food even when the war prolonged.

☒ He gave a lecture on crop and animal husbandry.

HUTCH

pen or coop for animals, shack, shanty

☒ The rabbits bred so rapidly that they outgrew their hutch in no time.

HYGIENIC

clean, sanitary

- ☑ **Syn.** antiseptic, sterilised
- ★ **Ant.** dirty, insanitary
- ☞ Hygienic living conditions help to keep infections away.

HYMN (HIM) N.

a song of praise

- ☑ **Syn.** song, chant, mantra, tune
- ☞ The school choir sang the hymns very well at the festival.

HYPERBOLE N.

wild exaggeration, often deliberate

- ☑ **Syn.** overstatement
- ★ **Ant.** understatement, irony, dryness
- ☞ The blurb at the back was full of the usual hyperbole, but the book was a disappointment.

HYPOCHONDRIA N.

morbid anxiety about health, imaginary illness

- ☞ She was worried that her doctor would accuse her of hypochondria.

HYPOCRITE

person claiming beliefs or virtues he or she doesn't really possess

- ☑ **Syn.** phony, pretender
- ☞ The doctor who advised his patients to stay away from tobacco was called a hypocrite when he was caught smoking.

HYPOTHESIS

assumption subject to proof

- ☑ **Syn.** conjecture, supposition
- ☞ It's an interesting hypothesis, but I'll need proof.

HYPOTHETICAL

theoretical, speculative

- ☑ **Syn.** conjectured, imagined
- ★ **Ant.** real, actual
- ☞ The official claimed that his radical forecast was based on hypothetical situations.

HYSTERIA N., HYSTERICAL Adj.

an outbreak of wild emotions, panic, chaos, frenzy

- ☑ **Syn.** panic, hysterics, frenzy, madness
- ★ **Ant.** calm, serenity, quietness, peace
- ☞ There is hysteria among teenagers and pop music lovers over the arrival of Michael Jackson.
- ☞ There is always a hysterical crowd at the stadium during an Indo-Pak cricket match.

Business, Economics, and Finance

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

ACCRUE	:	to accumulate over time (e.g., interest or money owing)
BULLISH	:	characterized by rising share prices on Stock Exchange
EMBARGO	:	an official prohibition or restriction of foreign trade by one nation against another
ESCROW	:	a temporary account established to hold funds pending the completion of investment or purchase transaction
HEDGE	:	to offset the risk of loss (e.g.; from market price fluctuations)
PECUNIARY	:	financial; monetary
RED HERRING	:	something especially a clue, which is intended to be misleading or distracting
SCRIVENER	:	a professional or public copyist, scribe, or notary
SURETY	:	one who guarantees the performance (e.g., payment) on behalf of another
USURIOUS	:	referring to an extremely high or unlawful rate of interest

**ICONOCLAST** N., **ICONOCLASTIC** Adj.

a person opposing conventional beliefs, dissident, agitator

- ☑ **Syn.** misfit, maverick, nonconformist
- * **Ant.** conservative, traditional, orthodox
- ☒ Human civilisation largely owes its evolution to its iconoclastic members.
- ☒ It must have been an iconoclast who conjured up the audacious dream of space travel.

IDEALISM

pursuit of noble goals

- ☑ **Syn.** philosophy, principle
- * **Ant.** materialism, cynicism
- ☒ His idealism is admirable, but it will not be easy to support ten orphans.

IDEE FIXE N.

a fixed idea or belief, obsession

- ☒ In these troubled times characterised by rapid changes, managers should try and rid themselves of every possible idee fixe.

IDIOSYNCRASY N.

peculiarity of temperament or mental constitution, eccentricity, oddity

- ☑ **Syn.** abnormality, quirk
- ☒ My grandfather had many lovable idiosyncrasies, one being his insistence that dessert be eaten after every meal, even after breakfast.

IDYLLIC Adj.

simple, innocent, charming

- ☑ **Syn.** peaceful, calm, tranquil, restful
- ☒ Idyllic scenery of Manali allures thousands every year.

IGNOBLE Adj.

of low birth or common origin, plebeian

- ☑ **Syn.** lowborn base
- * **Ant.** noble, dignified, highborn
- ☒ Ignoble means to achieve success are despicable.

IGNOMINY N., **IGNOMINIOUS** Adj.

public or profound disgrace, insult

- ☑ **Syn.** humiliation, shame
- * **Ant.** honour, respect, admiration
- ☒ Not even the fear of ignominy dampens the spirit of the crooked.
- ☒ The ignominious mayor fled from the town, leaving behind a tangled financial mess.

ILLEGIBLE Adj.

not readable, indistinct, indecipherable

- ☑ **Syn.** scrawled, scribbled
- * **Ant.** readable, comprehensible
- ☒ I am afraid illegible handwriting is not the only qualification required to become a doctor.

ILLICIT Adj.

unlawful, unauthorised, forbidden, (esp. of substances) illegal or disapproved of

- ☑ **Syn.** felonious, wrongful
- * **Ant.** legal, lawful
- ☒ Illicit liquor is the creation of prohibition.

ILLUSORY

unreal, deceptive

- ☑ **Syn.** delusory, notional
- * **Ant.** genuine, real
- ☒ The lost traveller was devastated to discover that the lake he had seen was illusory, just a mirage.

ILLUSTRIOUS

famous, renowned

- ☑ **Syn.** eminent, acclaimed
- * **Ant.** obscure, unknown
- ☒ The illustrious music composer produced one hit after another, much to the delight of his fans.

IMBECILE N.

a foolish, unwise, stupid person, a person who behaves in a stupid way

- * **Ant.** brilliant
- ☒ Things have become so bad that only an imbecile can expect a politician to put country before self.

IMBIBE V.

to absorb, receive in the mind

- ☑ **Syn.** drink, down, swallow
- ☒ Imbibing the ideals of the great men will be worth the effort.

IMBROGLIO N.

confusion, chaos, embroilment, full of trouble and problems

- ☑ **Syn.** entanglement, embarrassment
- ☒ The Soviet Union became anxious to withdraw its soldiers from the Afghan imbroglio.

IMBUE

to infuse, dye, wet, moisten

- ☑ **Syn.** permeate, fill
- * **Ant.** starve, block
- ☒ Maithili struggled to imbue her children with decent values, a difficult task in this day and age.

IMMACULATE Adj.

clean, spotless, pure, exquisite, unsullied

- ☑ **Syn.** clean and tidy, perfect, spick
- * **Ant.** messy, untidy, muddled, chaotic
- ☒ Dressed in an immaculate white chiffon Simi Grewal looked angelic.

IMMATERIAL

inconsequential, not consisting of matter

- ☑ **Syn.** extraneous, nonessential
- * **Ant.** important, tangible
- ☒ For some people, the means are immaterial; results are all that matters.

IMMENSE

enormous, huge

- ☑ **Syn.** massive, gigantic
- * **Ant.** minute, tiny
- ☒ In the main hall of the museum, an immense dinosaur skeleton towered over the children.

IMMERSE

to bathe, dip, to engross, preoccupy

- ☑ **Syn.** submerge, absorb
- * **Ant.** dehydrate, distract
- ☒ As the heat became unbearable, the tiger immersed itself in the zoo pool and stayed there till evening.

IMMINENT Adj.

overhanging, impending, threatening, (esp. of something unpleasant) likely to happen very soon

- ☑ **Syn.** looming, depending, on the agenda
- * **Ant.** distant, remote, outlying, far
- ☒ The Prime Minister has strenuously denied reports that a general election was imminent.

IMMOBILE

not moveable, still

- ☑ **Syn.** motionless, stationary
- * **Ant.** mobile, moving
- ☒ Although Ghanshyam's legs have been immobile since the accident, he gets around on his wheelchair.

IMMOLATE V., **IMMOLATION** N.

to offer in sacrifice, to kill (esp. yourself) or to destroy (something), usually by burning, esp. as an expression of anger

- ☒ Students' self-immolation over the Mandal issue was tragic.

IMMUNE Adj., **IMMUNITY** N.

exempt, free from danger or obligation, protected against a disease by substances in the blood

- ☑ **Syn.** resistant, protected, impervious
- * **Ant.** susceptible, vulnerable, prone
- ☒ Politicians are immune to public criticism.
- ☒ Journalists, he insisted, must not have immunity from prosecution.

IMMURE V.

to imprison, confine

- ☒ Amit used to immure himself in his study-room for a fortnight before the exams.

IMMUTABLE

unchangeable, invariable

- ☑ **Syn.** perpetual, unshakeable
- * **Ant.** transient, variable
- ☒ Poverty was an immutable fact of life for the unfortunate Arora family; every source of income had run dry.

IMPAIR

to damage, injure

- ☑ **Syn.** disable, cripple
- * **Ant.** enhance, improve
- ☒ Years of knitting in poor light had impaired Dora's vision.

IMPASSE

blocked path, dilemma with no solution

- ☑ **Syn.** deadlock, stalemate
- * **Ant.** breakthrough, resolution
- ☒ With both leaders failing to budge, the peace process had reached an impasse and the mediator had to act fast.

IMPASSIONED

with passion

- ☑ **Syn.** sincere, fervent
- * **Ant.** half-hearted, dispassionate
- ☒ The protesters made an impassioned plea for the life of the condemned man.

IMPASSIVE

showing no emotion

- ☑ **Syn.** apathetic, indifferent
- * **Ant.** excitable, expressive
- ☒ The king looked on impassively as the traitor desperately pleaded for his life.

IMPEACH

to charge with misdeeds in public office, accuse

- ☑ **Syn.** arraign, indict
- * **Ant.** discharge, acquit
- ☒ The senators debated whether or not the president should be impeached for his felony.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. iconoclast | a. illegal |
| 2. illicit | b. flawless |
| 3. impeccable | c. powerless |
| 4. impotent | d. attacker of popular beliefs |
| 5. inaugurate | e. begin officially |

1.(d) 2.(a) 3.(b) 4.(c) 5.(e)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

IMPECCABLE

flawless, without fault

- ☑ **Syn.** unblemished, blameless
- * **Ant.** imperfect, faulty
- ☒ The dress rehearsal was impeccable; everything was ready for the actual performance.

IMPENETRABLE Adj.

not able to be pierced or entered, beyond understanding, impossible to enter or go through

- ☑ **Syn.** impassable, opaque, enigmatic
- ☒ Ocean's mysteries are impenetrable.

IMPENITENT Adj.

not repentant, not sorry or ashamed about something bad you have done, not penitent

- ☑ **Syn.** not sorry, shameless
- * **Ant.** remorseful, regretful, sorry
- ☒ To this day she remains impenitent about her criminal past.

IMPERATIVE

essential, mandatory

- ☑ **Syn.** indispensable, obligatory
- * **Ant.** unimportant, optional
- ☒ It's imperative that you follow the instructions of the crew in the event of a crash.

IMPERIAL Adj.

royal, noble, aristocratic, grand, of an empire or the person who rules it

- ☑ **Syn.** regal, imposing, majestic
- ☒ All imperial palaces of Europe are tourist attractions.

IMPERIOUS Adj.

domineering, tyrannical, authoritative, dictatorial, haughty; intensely compelling

- ☑ **Syn.** arrogant, superior
- * **Ant.** submissive, obedient, compliant
- ☒ Imperious government officials close their eyes to the plight of the public.
- ☒ We need to find a solution to the imperious problems of new age gizmos like cellphone cameras.

IMPETURBABLE Adj.

calm, quiet, which cannot be perturbed or disturbed, being unusually calm and serene,

- ☑ **Syn.** tranquil, serene, placid
- * **Ant.** excited, frenzied, turbulent
- ☒ She was calmly competent and imperturbable in a crisis, just the ideal nurse.

IMPIOUS

not devout in religion

- ☑ **Syn.** unholy, irreligious
- * **Ant.** holy, pious
- ☒ The nun cut herself off from her impious family after she entered the convent.

IMPLACABLE

inflexible, incapable of being pleased

- ☑ **Syn.** unapacifiable, unyielding
- * **Ant.** mollifiable, forgiving
- ☒ His rage at the betrayal was so great that he remained implacable for weeks.

IMPLANT(v)

to set securely or deeply, to instill

- (n) – transplant, graft
- ☑ **Syn.** embed, lodge
- * **Ant.** extract, draw out
- ☒ The teacher tried to implant good virtues in his students.

IMPLICATE V., **IMPLICATION** N.

to involve, to entangle or connect; a possible significance

- ☑ **Syn.** associate, involve, connect, link
- * **Ant.** clear, obvious, apparent, patent
- ☒ The top brass of Global Trust Bank is implicated in the scam.
- ☒ The book has political implications.

IMPLICIT

implied, not directly expressed

- ☑ **Syn.** understood, deducible
- * **Ant.** explicit, direct
- ☒ He never said so but it was implicit in Ravi's behaviour that he wanted to terminate his relationship with Sapna.

IMPORTUNE V.

to urge with troublesome persistence

- ☑ **Syn.** appeal, beg, plead
- ☒ The contesting candidates importuned me for votes right through the campaigning period.

IMPOSE

to inflict, force upon

- ☑ **Syn.** press, compel
- * **Ant.** bully, refuse
- ☒ Her father refused her request and imposed his will on her against her wishes.

IMPOSING

dignified, grand

- ☑ **Syn.** striking, magnificent
- * **Ant.** unimpressive, mediocre
- ☒ The imposing facade of the mansion intimidated the governess who had come to work there.

IMPOTENT

powerless, lacking virility

- ☑ **Syn.** helpless, ineffectual
- * **Ant.** powerful, effective
- ☒ Himself an alcoholic, Chaudhury was impotent to prevent his daughter's plunge into drug abuse.

IMPRECATE V., IMPRECATION N.

to utter curses

- ☞ The girl imprecated the street boys for harassing her.

IMPREGNABLE Adj.

invulnerable, so strong and well-made that it cannot be broken into or taken by force

- ☑ **Syn.** unassailable, invincible, secure
- ★ **Ant.** vulnerable, susceptible, open to
- ☞ You can fit your house with burglar alarms and double locks but your home will never be impregnable against determined thieves.

IMPRESSIONABLE

easily influenced or affected

- ☑ **Syn.** persuadable, susceptible
- ★ **Ant.** insusceptible, unimpressionable
- ☞ After attending the Spice Girls concert, the impressionable girl began to dress like Posh Spice every day.

IMPROMPTU

spontaneous, without rehearsal

- ☑ **Syn.** extempore, unrehearsed
- ★ **Ant.** premeditated, planned
- ☞ During the interview, the Beatles suddenly decided to give an impromptu performance of "Love Me Do."

IMPROVISE V.

to compose, recite, perform without preparation, better, advance

- ☑ **Syn.** manage, get by, get along, cope
- ☞ I hadn't prepared a speech so I suddenly had to improvise.

IMPUDENT Adj.

shamelessly bold, brazen-faced, insolent, rude and not respectful

- ☑ **Syn.** cheeky, impertinent, insolent
- ★ **Ant.** respectful, reverential, reverent
- ☞ Impudent behaviour of the neo-rich often lands them in trouble.

IMPUGN

to call into question, attack verbally

- ☑ **Syn.** challenge, assail
- ★ **Ant.** support, praise
- ☞ "How dare you impugn my honourable motives?" protested the lawyer on being accused of spying.

IMPULSE

sudden tendency, inclination

- ☑ **Syn.** urge, whim
- ★ **Ant.** premeditated, with forethought
- ☞ On impulse, Sarah bought a leather jacket for her boyfriend, although she couldn't really afford it.

IMPULSIVE

spontaneous, unpredictable

- ☑ **Syn.** reckless, impromptu
- ★ **Ant.** cautious, premeditated
- ☞ Last Christmas, she impulsively cancelled the trip to London and went to Hawaii instead.

IMPUNITY N.

safety from punishment, immunity, licence, freedom from punishment

- ☞ Indians flout traffic rules with impunity.

IMPUTE V.

to ascribe, charge, attribute (often unfairly)

- ☑ **Syn.** refer, assign
- ☞ Each political candidate imputes his opponent of corruption.

INADVERTENT Adj.

unintentional, thoughtless

- ☑ **Syn.** unintended, chance, involuntary
- ★ **Ant.** deliberate, planned, calculated
- ☞ The heavy fog caused an inadvertent delay of the flight.

INADVERTENTLY

unintentionally

- ☑ **Syn.** accidentally, unwittingly
- ★ **Ant.** deliberately, intentionally
- ☞ As he was backing out of the driveway, the driver inadvertently ran over a rose bush.

INALIENABLE Adj.

not capable of being removed, undeniable, irrevocable

- ☑ **Syn.** absolute, immutable, undeniable
- ☞ The inalienable influence of the British rule on the way of life and thinking of Indians was radical as well as harmful.

INANE Adj.

empty, void, insubstantial

- ☑ **Syn.** absurd, idiotic, childish
- ★ **Ant.** sensible, sane, reasonable
- ☞ There are too many inane quiz shows and imported detective series on television these days.

INAUGURATE

to begin or start officially, to induct into office

- ☑ **Syn.** institute, establish
- ★ **Ant.** end, wind up
- ☞ The new headquarters of the company was inaugurated in a lavish ceremony attended by thousands.

INCARCERATE V.

to imprison, confine, detain, to lock up or confine against a person's will

- ☑ **Syn.** jail, intern
- ☞ The judge determined that the young offender should do community service rather than be incarcerated.

INCARNATE

having bodily form

- ☑ **Syn.** embodied in the flesh, in human form
- ☞ The serial killer was so sadistic that the media described him as the devil incarnate.

INCENDIARY N.

a person who deliberately sets fire, arsonist

- ☞ The identical pattern of fires in the city confirm the hand of an incendiary.

INCENSE(v)

to infuriate, enrage

(n) – perfume, fragrance, smell

☑ **Syn.** outrage, antagonise

* **Ant.** placate, please

☒ The general became thoroughly incensed when his subordinates failed to follow his orders.

INCEPTION N.

beginning, origin, birth, debut

☑ **Syn.** setting up, start, initiation

* **Ant.** culmination, conclusion, finale

☒ Since its inception in 1968, the company has been at the forefront of computer peripherals development.

INCIPIENT

beginning to exist or appear; at an initial stage

☑ **Syn.** embryonic, nascent

* **Ant.** full-blown, fully developed

☒ The symptoms were yet to become evident but the incipient illness was already affecting her sleep.

INCISIVE

perceptive, penetrating

☑ **Syn.** sharp, astute

* **Ant.** rambling, vague

☒ The psychologist's incisive analysis of her patient's childhood helped him to understand his own behaviour.

INCITE V., **INCITATION** N.

to move to action, to instigate, to encourage (someone) to do or feel

☑ **Syn.** provoke, inflame, rouse, goad

* **Ant.** inhibit, hold back, restrain, stall

☒ Ghulam Mir was kept in solitary confinement because it was feared he might incite another riot.

INCLEMENT Adj.

severe, harsh, rigorous (of weather)

☑ **Syn.** stormy, rainy, windy, foul

* **Ant.** pleasant, enjoyable, agreeable

☒ The inclement life amidst Himalayan snows demands tenacity.

INCOGNITO Adj.

unknown, under an assumed name, with a hidden identity

☑ **Syn.** in disguise, undercover

* **Ant.** openly, explicitly, frankly

☒ The prince often travels abroad incognito.

INCOMMUNICADO Adj.

in solitary confinement, not communicating with anyone else because you do not want to or you are not allowed to

☒ He was held incommunicado for 48 hours after he was arrested.

INCONGRUOUS Adj.

inconsistent, unsuitable, incompatible, seeming out of place or unsuited

☑ **Syn.** incompatible, inappropriate

* **Ant.** consistent, steady, constant

☒ Do you think it incongruous that a woman should be the editor of a men's magazine?

INCONTINENT Adj.

lacking self-restraint, not having voluntary control over excretion of urine and faeces

☒ He thought he was incontinent because he was old but was pleasantly surprised when the treatment made a major difference and restored his confidence.

INCREDIBLE Adj.

beyond belief, unbelievable, amazing, unimaginable, impossible to believe

☑ **Syn.** disembodied, ghostly, spiritual

* **Ant.** tangible, touchable, physical

☒ The news that he scored 100 percentile in CAT seems incredible but it is true.

INCRECULITY N., **INCRECULOUS** Adj.

a tendency to disbelief

☑ **Syn.** amazement, astonishment, doubt

* **Ant.** belief, faith, trust, conviction

☒ He cast an incredulous glance at the well-dressed gentleman who turned out to be a thief.

☒ He felt a sense of incredulity, anger and pain at the accusation made against him.

INCRIMINATE V., **INCRIMINATION** N.

to charge with a crime, to accuse of blame or implicate as blameworthy

☑ **Syn.** accuse, indict, inculpate

* **Ant.** acquit, extenuate, absolve

☒ The incriminating evidence against the Congressmen is an eye opener.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. inept | a. clumsy |
| 2. inert | b. inactive |
| 3. infatuated | c. conclude |
| 4. infer | d. foolish |
| 5. ingenuous | e. artless |

1.(a) 2.(b) 3.(d) 4.(c) 5.(e)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

INCLINATION

tendency towards

- ☑ **Syn.** proclivity, propensity
- * **Ant.** aversion, disinclination
- ☒ Her natural inclination was to refuse Madhur's invitation to dinner, but since he was her boss she could not refuse.

INCLUSIVE

comprehensive

- ☑ **Syn.** with everything included, all-encompassing
- * **Ant.** exclusive, excepting
- ☒ It took 30 years, but the publisher managed to produce the most inclusive encyclopedia on the market.

INCONCEIVABLE

impossible, unthinkable

- ☑ **Syn.** implausible, absurd
- * **Ant.** likely, believable
- ☒ It was inconceivable to the dictator that his subjects could hate him, although they obviously did.

INCONSEQUENTIAL

unimportant, trivial

- ☑ **Syn.** insignificant, trifling
- * **Ant.** significant, important
- ☒ The director dismissed the report as inconsequential and ordered a fresh round of research.

INCORRIGIBLE

incapable of being corrected

- ☑ **Syn.** incurable, inveterate
- * **Ant.** occasional, repentant
- ☒ Shabana is an incorrigible flirt.

INCRECULOUS

sceptical, doubtful

- ☑ **Syn.** disbelieving, distrustful
- * **Ant.** credulous, gullible
- ☒ Apparently my friend missed the incredulous look on my face because he went on to tell another tall story.

INCULCATE V.

to instill by repetition, to fix (ideas, beliefs, facts etc.) in someone's mind esp. by repeating them often

- ☑ **Syn.** beat, hammer, pound, repeat
- ☒ Right values have to be inculcated right from infancy.

INCUMBENT Adj., N., INCUMBENCY N.

lying, resting, officially having the named position

- ☑ **Syn.** current, in office, present, now
- * **Ant.** past, history, precedent, beyond
- ☒ The present incumbent is due to retire next month.
- ☒ The anti-incumbency wave removed NDA from power.

INDEFATIGABLE

never tired

- ☑ **Syn.** untiring, tenacious
- * **Ant.** idle, feeble
- ☒ Vasanti seemed indefatigable, ready for a few laps in the pool after a 10-kilometre run.

INDEFENSIBLE

inexcusable, unforgivable

- ☑ **Syn.** unpardonable, refutable
- * **Ant.** justifiable, tenable
- ☒ I was aghast at the indefensible cruelty of the ruling sect.

INDELIBLE Adj.

that cannot be removed, washed away or erased

- ☒ The whole election turned out to be a farce when the so-called indelible ink smeared on voters' fingers turned out to be easily washable.

INDEMNIFY V., INDEMNITY N.

to secure against or compensate loss

- ☒ The state provided indemnity for the steel plant project in Orissa.

INDICATIVE

showing or pointing out

- ☑ **Syn.** suggestive of, symptomatic
- ☒ The looting of the shop was indicative of the general lawlessness that prevailed in the city.

INDICT V., INDICTMENT N.

to charge with a crime formally, accuse

- ☑ **Syn.** impeach, summons
- ☒ The High Court indicted the seer for murder.

INDIGENOUS

native, occurring naturally in an area

- ☑ **Syn.** original, initial
- * **Ant.** expatriate, migrant
- ☒ Palm trees are indigenous to Florida, unlike penguins.

INDIGENT Adj., INDIGENCE N.

poor, destitute, in need of money

- ☑ **Syn.** poor, needy, impecunious
- * **Ant.** wealthy, rich, prosperous, flush
- ☒ The indigent Chakma refugees live in a pitiable condition.
- ☒ Economists or politicians could not find a way to eliminate or even reduce inequalities of wealth and eliminate indigence.

INDISCRIMINATE Adj.

choosing at random, confused, promiscuous

- ☑ **Syn.** haphazard, random, arbitrary
- ☒ The indiscriminate use of fertilisers has caused long-term problems in the area.

INDOLENT Adj., INDOLENCE N.

lazy, sluggish

- ☑ **Syn.** lethargic, slothful, idle
- * **Ant.** industrious, busy, productive
- ☒ People living in warm climates tend to be indolent.
- ☒ If you want to make progress you have to shed your indolence first.

INDOMITABLE Adj.

invincible, unconquerable, dauntless

- ☑ **Syn.** strong, resolute, tough
- * **Ant.** feeble, weak, frail, delicate
- ☒ Meenu proved indomitable and she did not let even the fall affect her preparation for her *arangetram*.

INDUCE

to persuade, bring about

- ☑ **Syn.** prompt, instigate
- * **Ant.** dissuade, prevent
- ☒ Tom thought the prospect of a walk in the hills would induce his girlfriend to go skydiving with him, but she refused.

INDUCT

to place ceremoniously in office

- ☑ **Syn.** install in, instate in
- * **Ant.** bar from, dismiss
- ☒ The wicketkeeper was proud to be inducted into cricket's Hall of Fame.

INDULGE

to give in to a craving or desire

- ☑ **Syn.** splurge, luxuriate in
- * **Ant.** deny oneself of, stifle
- ☒ Jenny indulged herself with a weekend at a luxurious spa.

INEBRIATE V., **INEBRIATED** Adj.**INEBRIETY** N.

to intoxicate

- ☒ Deepak was caught in an inebriated condition while on duty and was promptly dismissed.

INEFFABLE Adj.

causing too much emotion (esp. pleasure) to express in words

- ☑ **Syn.** indescribable, unspeakable
- ☒ There is ineffable joy in seeing one's baby start to walk for the first time.

INEPT

clumsy, awkward

- ☑ **Syn.** unskilful, incompetent
- * **Ant.** competent, expert
- ☒ He was so inept in the garden that he dug up roses and fertilised weeds.

INERT

unable to move, inactive

- ☑ **Syn.** immobile, motionless
- * **Ant.** moving, animated
- ☒ In the heat of the desert afternoon, lizards lie inert.

INEVITABLE

certain, unavoidable

- ☑ **Syn.** inescapable, inexorable
- * **Ant.** avoidable, uncertain
- ☒ With all the obstacles in their path, the end of their relationship was, perhaps, inevitable.

INEXORABLE Adj.

unrelenting, stubborn, obstinate, not movable by any means

- ☑ **Syn.** unalterable, unchangeable
- ☒ The storm's path was inexorable and the best we could do was prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

INEXPLICABLE Adj.

incapable of being explained

- ☑ **Syn.** mysterious, unfathomable
- * **Ant.** understandable, reasonable
- ☒ The sudden change in her mood was inexplicable.

INFAMY

reputation for bad deeds

- ☑ **Syn.** notoriety, disrepute
- * **Ant.** honour, anonymity
- ☒ His infamy threatened to degrade the high position he now occupied.

INFANTILE

childish, immature

- ☑ **Syn.** juvenile, adolescent
- * **Ant.** mature, level-headed
- ☒ The young man's infantile behaviour in the presence of his mother annoyed his fiancée.

INFATUATED

strongly or foolishly attached to, inspired with foolish passion, overly in love

- ☑ **Syn.** besotted, smitten
- ☒ After seeing her picture in a fashion magazine, Lalit became completely infatuated with the beautiful model.

INFER

to conclude, deduce

- ☑ **Syn.** surmise, imply
- ☒ I think we can infer from this study that the quality of old-age homes needs to be improved.

INFINITESIMAL Adj.

insignificant, small

- ☑ **Syn.** minute, minuscule, tiny
- * **Ant.** immeasurable, endless, infinite
- ☒ No lapse ought to be treated as infinitesimal.

INFRINGE V., **INFRINGEMENT** N.

to violate, trespass, defy

- ☑ **Syn.** break, encroach
- * **Ant.** obey, mind, follow, observe
- ☒ The prisoners claimed that the new regulation was an infringement of their right to live with dignity.

INFURIATE V.

to madden, to enrage

- ☑ **Syn.** enrage, madden, incense, annoy
- ☒ The inefficiency of the administration infuriated the public.

INGENIOUS

original, clever, inventive

- ☑ **Syn.** creative, sharp-witted
- * **Ant.** unimaginative, stupid
- ☒ Ajay found an ingenious way to solve the complex math problem.

INGENUOUS

straightforward, open, naive and unsophisticated

- ☑ **Syn.** candid, forthright
- * **Ant.** cunning, artful
- ☒ She was so ingenuous that her friends feared she would be exploited in the big city.

INGRATE

ungrateful person

- ☑ **Syn.** thankless, unappreciative
- * **Ant.** thankful, grateful
- ☒ When nobody thanked her for the fruit cakes she had sent, Neena condemned them all as ingrates.

INGRATIATE V.

to commend to someone's grace or favour, to work your way into someone's good graces

- ☑ **Syn.** curry flavour, toady, grovel to
- ☒ For once the bureaucrat's ingratiating manner failed to work and the no-nonsense minister ordered him to produce results.

INHIBIT

to hold back, prevent

- ☑ **Syn.** restrict, restrain
- * **Ant.** allow, encourage
- ☒ Ruchi was too inhibited to tell Amar that she resented his failure to repay the money he kept borrowing from her.

INIMICAL

hostile, unfriendly

- ☑ **Syn.** antagonistic, antipathetic
- * **Ant.** warm, friendly
- ☒ Even though the ceasefire was holding, the two sides remained inimical and the tension did not ease.

INIQUITY

sin, injustice, wickedness

- ☑ **Syn.** villainy, immorality
- * **Ant.** virtue, goodness
- ☒ The iniquity of his act was apparent to all and it was an easy decision to bar him from entering the church.

INITIATE

to begin, introduce, to enlist, induct

- ☑ **Syn.** commence, install
- * **Ant.** complete, expel
- ☒ He thought the first experimental sip at the bar would initiate him into manhood.

INJECT

to force into, to introduce into conversation

- ☑ **Syn.** instil, infuse
- ☒ Her loud remark injected an element of uneasiness into the conversations at the party.

INNATE

natural, inborn

- ☑ **Syn.** inbred, congenital
- * **Ant.** acquired, extraneous
- ☒ Her innate level-headedness will help her to withstand the enormous pressure of the job.

INNOCUOUS

harmless, inoffensive

- ☑ **Syn.** peaceful, insipid
- * **Ant.** harmful, obnoxious
- ☒ Some snakes are poisonous, but most are innocuous and pose no danger to humans.

INNOVATE

to invent, modernise, revolutionise

- ☑ **Syn.** institute, pioneer
- ☒ Coco Chanel innovated a new suit design, transforming the fashion industry.

INNUENDO N.

an indirect derogatory comment, insinuation

- ☑ **Syn.** aspersion, barb, implication
- ☒ The many innuendoes about his private life eventually made him resign.

INNUMERABLE

too many to be counted

- ☑ **Syn.** numerous, countless
- * **Ant.** few, calculable
- ☒ There are innumerable stars in the sky.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. incense | a. beginning |
| 2. incipient | b. make very angry |
| 3. incisive | c. cutting right to the heart |
| 4. incorrigible | d. incapable of being reformed |
| 5. indigenous | e. native |

1.(b) 2.(a) 3.(c) 4.(d) 5.(e)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

INOCULATE V., INOCULATION N.

to insert as a bud or a graft, to vaccinate

- ☑ **Syn.** immunise, vaccinate
- ☒ It is important to inoculate every infant at the earliest.

INOPPORTUNE Adj.

unseasonable in time

- ☑ **Syn.** ill-timed, unfortunate
- * **Ant.** opportune, fitting, apt, right
- ☒ Without thinking, I made an inopportune remark that hurt my friend.

INORDINATE Adj.

excessive, unrestrained, beyond normal limits,

- ☑ **Syn.** immoderate, undue, unwarranted
- ☒ Thanks to the inordinate delay in the commissioning of the power project there is no way to bridge the huge gap between demand and supply.

INSATIABLE

never satisfied

- ☑ **Syn.** unquenchable, unappeasable
- * **Ant.** easily satisfied, content
- ☒ Meera's insatiable appetite made it difficult for her to lose weight.

INSCRUTABLE Adj.

that which cannot be understood, mysterious, difficult to interpret

- ☑ **Syn.** enigmatic, deadpan
- ☒ The inspector's inscrutable smile gave nothing away as the accused rambled on.

INSIDIOUS Adj.

deceptive, treacherous, wily, alluring but dangerous, deceitfully damaging

- ☑ **Syn.** sinister, menacing
- ☒ Insidious mortal pleasures make one run after money.

INSINUATE V., INSINUATION N.

to suggest indirectly, imply

- ☑ **Syn.** make out, intimate
- ☒ He was insinuating that the starlet had succumbed to the casting couch to bag the role.

INSIPID

lacking flavour, without excitement

- ☑ **Syn.** bland, unpalatable
- * **Ant.** tasty, interesting
- ☒ The critic claimed that the soup was insipid, without any spice.

INSOLENT

impudent, cheeky

- ☑ **Syn.** uncivil, impolite
- * **Ant.** polite, courteous
- ☒ Despite several warnings, the student continued to be insolent and was asked to leave the class.

INSOLUBLE

that cannot be solved or dissolved

- ☑ **Syn.** insolvable, inexplicable
- * **Ant.** resolvable, interpretable
- ☒ When the mathematician found the solution to the problem others had declared insoluble, he was hailed as a genius.

INSOLVENT

bankrupt, unable to pay one's debts

- ☑ **Syn.** penniless, ruined
- * **Ant.** solvent, creditworthy
- ☒ The company became insolvent after overinvesting in many overambitious projects and had to go out of business.

INSOUCIANT Adj.

indifferent, without concern or care

- ☒ Perhaps his youth makes him insouciant but he ought to be conscious of his official responsibility.

INSTIGATE

to incite, urge, agitate

- ☑ **Syn.** goad, encourage
- * **Ant.** dissuade, discourage
- ☒ The man who had instigated the rebellion escaped, although all his followers were arrested.

INSULAR

isolated, detached

- ☑ **Syn.** segregated, separate
- * **Ant.** tolerant, accessible
- ☒ Her insular attitude made it very difficult for her to adjust to the new workplace though others were willing to accommodate her.

INSURGENT Adj., N., INSURGENCY N.

rebellious

- ☑ **Syn.** rebel, rising
- * **Ant.** content, happy, substance
- ☒ The coup was masterminded by the insurgent troops.
- ☒ The army carried out counter-insurgency operations in Kashmir valley last fortnight.

INSURRECTION N.

a rising or revolt, mutiny

- ☑ **Syn.** rebellion, revolution, mutiny
- ☒ This insurrection against orthodoxy is necessary for radical change.

INTEGRAL

central, indispensable

- ☑ **Syn.** essential, fundamental
- * **Ant.** incidental, peripheral
- ☒ Paper is an integral part of a book.

INTEGRITY

decency, honesty; wholeness

- ☑ **Syn.** uprightness, morality
- * **Ant.** dishonesty, insincerity
- ☒ The candidate's integrity made him a refreshing contrast to his sleazy political opponents.

INTERMINABLE

endless

- ☑ **Syn.** incessant, ceaseless
- * **Ant.** restricted, limited
- ☒ By the time the interminable play ended, the last train home had already left.

INTERMITTENT

starting and stopping

- ☑ **Syn.** sporadic, fitful
- * **Ant.** steady, continuous
- ☒ The flow of traffic was intermittent on the highway.

INTERPOLATE

to insert, change by adding new words or material

- ☑ **Syn.** append, interject
- * **Ant.** remove, delete
- ☒ The editor interpolated a few sentences, and the new edition was ready to print.

INTERROGATE

to question formally

- ☑ **Syn.** grill, cross-examine
- * **Ant.** respond, reply
- ☒ The secret police interrogated the suspected rebel for days, demanding to know the names of his co-conspirators.

INTERSPERSE

to distribute among, mix with

- ☑ **Syn.** intermingle, disperse
- * **Ant.** assemble, congregate
- ☒ The gardener interspersed shrubs with flowering plants giving the garden a fresh and colourful look.

INTERVENE V., INTERVENTION N.

come between

- ☑ **Syn.** arbitrate, mediate, occur
- ☒ I had to intervene when the heated conversation threatened to get physical.

INTIMATION

announcement, suggestion

- ☑ **Syn.** notification, indication
- ☒ As he was away from work without leave, he stood to lose his wages for the entire month.

INTIMIDATE V., INTIMIDATION N.

browbeat, bully, cow, lean on

- ☑ **Syn.** threaten, frighten, scare, bully
- ☒ Managements now realise that intimidation does not contribute to efficiency.
- ☒ The don's intimidating presence in the nightclub was disturbing the other patrons.

INTRACTABLE

not easily managed

- ☑ **Syn.** uncontrollable, unmanageable
- * **Ant.** compliant, obedient
- ☒ The hardened criminals were intractable and the reformer's task was not likely to be easy.

INTRANSIGENT

uncompromising, refusing to be reconciled

- ☑ **Syn.** inflexible, unbending
- * **Ant.** flexible, compliant
- ☒ The professor was intransigent and refused to extend the deadline for submission of the assignment.

INTREPID

fearless, dauntless

- ☑ **Syn.** undaunted, unafraid
- * **Ant.** fearful, cowardly
- ☒ The intrepid hiker completed his ascent to the peak, despite the bleeding wound and the freezing winds.

INTRIGUE (INTREEG) N., V.

conspiracy, machination, secret affair

- ☑ **Syn.** plot, deception, scheme
- ☒ The silence of the minister is very intriguing as his ministry is in the thick of the scam.

INTRINSIC

inherent, internal

- ☑ **Syn.** inherent, integral
- * **Ant.** acquired, extrinsic
- ☒ The intrinsic value of this diamond is already considerable; the elegant setting makes it truly priceless.

INTRINSICALLY Adv., INTRINSIC Adj.

essentially innate, inherently

- ☑ **Syn.** basically, fundamentally
- ☒ We all like to be judged for our intrinsic worth and not for extrinsic things like money or position.

INTROSPECTIVE Adj., INTROSPECTION N.

looking within oneself

- ☑ **Syn.** thoughtful, meditative, pensive
- ☒ Everyone should keep aside some time for introspection.
- ☒ On introspection, I realised my follies and set forth to correct them.

INTUITIVE

instinctive, untaught

- ☑ **Syn.** inborn, inherent
- * **Ant.** cerebral, cultivated
- ☒ Riya's talent with numbers was completely intuitive; she had not received any formal training.

INUNDATE

to cover with water, overwhelm

- ☑ **Syn.** submerge, besiege
- * **Ant.** afloat, leave unaffected
- ☒ The tidal wave inundated the island, which simply vanished from the face of the earth.

INVECTIVE N.

censure, sarcasm, satire, verbal abuse or insult, vituperation

- ☑ **Syn.** diatribe, criticism, tirade
- * **Ant.** praise, admire, commend, extol
- ☒ Their conversations are always laced with invectives.

INVEIGH (*INVAY*) V.

to make a bitter verbal attack, to object with bitterness, to complain forcefully, to rail

- ☑ **Syn.** disparage, censure
- ☒ The lawyer inveighed against the unnecessarily strict sentence given to his client.

INVEIGLE V.

to entice, to coax by flattery, to convince or persuade by cleverness or flattery

- ☑ **Syn.** cajole, wheedle, trick, deceive, con
- ☒ Many young Nepali girls are inveigled into the flesh trade in Mumbai.

INVETERATE Adj.

deep rooted, stubborn, habitual

- ☑ **Syn.** chronic, confirmed, hardened
- * **Ant.** mild, gentle, kind, soft, calm
- ☒ An inveterate liar, she seemed to know of no difference between truth and fiction.

INVIGORATE V.

to strengthen

- ☑ **Syn.** refresh, revitalise, stimulate
- * **Ant.** exhaust, tire, drain, fatigue
- ☒ The invigorating climate of the hill-station restored my mood.

INVINCIBLE Adj.

insuperable, unyielding

- ☑ **Syn.** unbeatable, unshakable
- * **Ant.** yielding, submissive, weak
- ☒ India's spin attack humbled the seemingly invincible Australians.

INVIOABLE

safe from violation or assault

- ☑ **Syn.** untouchable, sacrosanct
- * **Ant.** vulnerable, unprotected
- ☒ The refugees felt inviolable in the camp under the protection of the U.N. troops.

INVOKE

to call upon, request help

- ☑ **Syn.** conjure, evoke
- * **Ant.** respond, reply
- ☒ Varun invoked the assistance of all his relatives when his business ran into serious trouble.

IOTA

very tiny amount

- ☑ **Syn.** shred, ounce
- ☒ Duryodhan told Krishna that he would not even give an iota of land to the Pandavas.

IRASCIBLE

easily-angered

- ☑ **Syn.** irritable, tetchy
- * **Ant.** sweet-natured, cool-tempered
- ☒ The dacoit's irascible and violent nature made all who dealt with him fear for their lives.

IRATE Adj.

angry

- ☑ **Syn.** furious, mad, irritated
- * **Ant.** calm, tranquil, peaceful, quiet
- ☒ The irate crowd burnt several buses and cars.

IRIDESCENT

showing many colours

- ☑ **Syn.** kaleidoscopic, multicoloured
- * **Ant.** monochromatic, colourless
- ☒ The tourists sighed at the beautiful sight of the iridescent tropical butterfly fluttering among the orchids.

IRKSOME Adj.

annoying, tedious

- ☑ **Syn.** infuriating, irritating, tiresome
- * **Ant.** pleasant, enjoyable, lovely
- ☒ A pedant that he was, I found his queries irksome.

IRONY N., **IRONICAL** Adj.

a condition where one seems to be mocked by fate, the unexpected, when it is the opposite of what you expected

- ☑ **Syn.** satire, sarcasm, mockery
- ☒ It is an irony of life that good times seem so near, yet so far.
- ☒ Ironically, wealth came to him in his old age after he had spent all his youth hankering after it.

IRREPROACHABLE Adj.

innocent, guiltless, blameless, impeccable

- ☑ **Syn.** virtuous, exemplary
- ☒ The irreproachable JRD Tata will always remain a legend.

IRRESOLVABLE

unable to be resolved, not analysable

- ☑ **Syn.** baffling, inexplicable
- ☒ The conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland seemed irresolvable until last year.

IRREVERENT Adj.

impious, irreligious, sacrilegious, cheeky, rude

- ☑ **Syn.** cheeky, mocking, impertinent
- * **Ant.** respectful, deferential, reverent
- ☒ Among today's youth it is a trend to be irreverent.

IRREVOCABLE Adj.

incapable of being revoked, recalled, repealed, brought back

- ☑ **Syn.** binding, final, irreversible
- * **Ant.** flexible, supple, lithe, elastic
- ☒ The words that leave your tongue is irrevocable.

ITINERARY N.

a plan for the journey, record of journey, travel route, guidebook

- ☑ **Syn.** schedule, plan, trip
- ☒ Our itinerary takes us through the four southern states.

“J” and “K”

J

JAB V., N.

to pierce, poke with a sharp object; a short straight boxing punch

☑ **Syn.** scoff, scorn

* **Ant.** praise, laud, extol

☒ Tyson's right jab can knock his opponent out in one blow.

☒ She jabbed two sticks into the ground and tied a string between them.

JADED

tired, bored, or lacking enthusiasm, typically after having had too much of something

☑ **Syn.** burned out, wearied

* **Ant.** fresh

☒ While the naive girls stared at the spectacle in awe, the jaded matrons dozed in their chairs.

JACUZZI N.

a special type of bath mechanism where water is agitated to give a whirlpool effect

☒ I may not have time even for a regular bath on working days but on Sundays you cannot get me out of my jacuzzi.

JAGGED Adj.

uneven, rough-edged, notched

☑ **Syn.** rough, serrated

* **Ant.** smooth, flat, even

☒ The jagged rocks in the rapids of *Ganga* make whitewater rafting very dangerous.

JAMBOREE N.

a boisterous frolic, a spree

☑ **Syn.** party, celebration, fête, shining

☒ The issue was ignored during the huge political jamboree of the polls.

JANGLING

clashing, jarring, harshly unpleasant (in sound)

☑ **Syn.** assaulting, fraying

* **Ant.** soothing, pleasing

☒ Ritesh stood on the terrace jangling his car keys.

JARGON

nonsensical talk, specialised language

☑ **Syn.** argot, technical language

* **Ant.** dialect, common lingo

☒ You need to master technical jargon in order to communicate successfully with engineers.

JAUNDICED

affected by jaundice, prejudiced or embittered

☑ **Syn.** cynical, resentful

* **Ant.** optimistic, charitable

☒ The cynical man adopted a jaundiced view towards all marriages after going through five divorces.

JAUNT N., V.

an excursion; to make a short journey

☑ **Syn.** outing, spree, stroll, excursion

☒ The soldiers are on extra pay during their jaunt to one of the world's most expensive resorts, *Siachen*.

☒ We jaunted through *Madhya Pradesh* in just three days.

JAUNTY Adj.

having a sprightly manner, lively and cheerful in manner

☑ **Syn.** cheerful, vivacious

* **Ant.** gloomy, listless, dull

☒ Our mountain guide had a jaunty air about him as we set off on our trek up the slopes of *Himalayas*.

JEER V., N.

to make fun of, deride, scoff, mock

☑ **Syn.** boo, hiss, heckle, taunt

* **Ant.** applaud, clap, congratulate

☒ She jeered at him after he was expelled from the class.

☒ I am no longer disturbed by her jeers.

JEOPARDY N., JEOPARDISE V.

danger, insecurity, peril, hazard

☑ **Syn.** risk, threat

☒ International terrorism has put humanity in jeopardy.

☒ Indira jeopardised Mohan's plan to get nominated by filing a sexual harassment case against him.

JETTISON V.

to throw overboard, to eject from an airplane or spaceship in flight

☑ **Syn.** discard, ditch, dump

* **Ant.** keep, stay, remain, be, maintain

☒ As political instability perseveres, worthless shares are being jettisoned and the market continues to sink.

☒ Air traffic control instructed the pilot to jettison fuel and prepare for emergency landing.

JINGOISM N. extremely aggressive and militant patriotism

☑ **Syn.** loyalist, nationalist, partisan

* **Ant.** turncoat, traitor, deserter, spy

☒ He was a confirmed jingoist and frequently warned his countrymen against the dangers from the other nations of the union.

☒ Her jingoistic speech was only an election gimmick but nobody questioned her for fear of being labelled unpatriotic.

JOIE DE VIVRE (*ZHWA DE VEEVR*)

the joy of living

☒ You cannot find the warmth and joie de vivre of Goa anywhere else in India.

JOVIAL Adj.

joyous, full of geniality

☑ **Syn.** cheerful, jolly, happy, buoyant

* **Ant.** miserable, unhappy, sad, down

☒ The jovial boss is a delight to work with.

K

JUBILATION N.

celebration, elation, euphoria, exultation

- Syn.** elation, triumph, euphoria, joy
- * **Ant.** unhappiness, sorrow, sadness
- There was great jubilation the night India won the World Cup.

JUBILEE

special anniversary

- Syn.** celebration, commemoration
- At the queen's Silver Jubilee, the entire country celebrated her long reign.

JUDICIOUS

sensible, showing good judgment

- Syn.** prudent, discerning
- * **Ant.** injudicious, rash
- The wise and distinguished judge was respected for his judicious temperament.

JUGGERNAUT N.

a massive force, campaign that crushes everything on its path

- The advertising juggernaut launched by the giant company is calculated to wipe out the small players.

JUGULAR Adj.

pertaining to the neck

- The enemy lay dead in a minute as Achilles cut the jugular veins in a swift move.

JURISPRUDENCE N.

principles on which laws are based

- The Chief Justice expressed concern over the quality of jurisprudence.

JUVENILE Adj., N.

young, childish, immature

- Syn.** infantile, callow
- * **Ant.** mature, adult, ripen, older
- Juvenile delinquents need rehabilitation more than the reprimand.
- Her behaviour was quite juvenile at the party.

JUXTAPOSITION N., JUXTAPOSE V.

placing close together, side by side

- Syn.** combination, concurrence
- Juxtapose the two different situations and you will appreciate my decision.
- The juxtaposition of cultures in New York makes it a varied and interesting city.

KALEIDOSCOPE N.,

KALEIDOSCOPIC Adj.

an optical toy showing a changing variety of forms

- The kaleidoscopic life of the Gypsies is enticing.
- The street bazaar was a kaleidoscope of colours, smells and sounds.

KEEL V., N.

turn or be turned over, to heel or lean precariously; the chief longitudinal structural member of a boat or ship

- For the first time, the annual budget of the central government was on an even keel.
- We realised that after colliding with the iceberg the boat had damaged its keel.

KEN N.

range of knowledge or mental perception

- Syn.** knowledge, awareness
- This maths problem is difficult but it is not beyond my ken.

KEEN

having a sharp edge, intellectually sharp, perceptive

- Syn.** eager, incisive
- * **Ant.** stupid, dull
- With her keen intelligence, she figured out the puzzle in two seconds flat.

KENNEL N.

house for dogs

- I plan to leave my dog in a kennel when I go on holiday.

KERNEL N.

the inner softer part of the seed

- The delicacy required fresh kernels of corn.

KEYNOTE – note or tone on which a musical key is founded, main idea of a speech, program, etc.

- Syn.** theme, salient point
- The university asked the historian to deliver the keynote address at the conference.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. insolent | a. provoke |
| 2. instigate | b. like an island |
| 3. insular | c. uncontrollable |
| 4. integral | d. essential |
| 5. intractable | e. arrogant |

1.(e) 2.(a) 3.(b) 4.(d) 5.(c)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Tes

KINDLE V.

to set fire to, arouse

- ☑ **Syn.** light, inflame, inspire, ignite
- ★ **Ant.** extinguish, discourage
- ☒ To kindle a dream is an act of kindness.
- ☒ Use paper to kindle the fire.

KINDRED Adj.

a group of related individuals

- ☑ **Syn.** relatives, family members
- ☒ The rich man was ready to spend millions in his search for someone kindred to him.
- ☒ We recognised each other as kindred spirits.

KINETIC

relating to motion, characterised by movement

- ☑ **Syn.** dynamic, mobile
- ★ **Ant.** static, stationary
- ☒ The kinetic sculpture moved back and forth, startling the museum visitors.

KINGPIN N.

chief, don, boss

- ☑ **Syn.** key player, top dog, linchpin
- ☒ The terrorist group has been the kingpin behind many bomb blasts in India.

KINK N.

a whim; a mental or physical peculiarity; imperfection

- ☒ If a ruler goes by his kinks, he may play havoc with the governance.
- ☒ She asked her hairdresser to make her hair straight and take out any kink.

KLEPTOMANIA N.

a morbid impulsion to steal things

- ☒ A kleptomaniac needs psychological attention.

KNACK (NAK) N.

dexterity, talent, proficiency, ability

- ☑ **Syn.** ability, skill, talent, flair, aptitude
- ☒ The knack of hitting the headlines makes one a celebrity.
- ☒ Making pastry is a knack that you can soon pick up.

KNEAD (NEED) V.

to press together in a mass

- ☑ **Syn.** massage, press, rub, work, mold
- ☒ If your muscles are stiff, knead them with your fingers to help them relax.

KNELL (NELL) N.

the stroke of a bell usually connected with death or funeral

- ☒ The Quit India movement was the death knell of British rule.

KNICKKNACK (NIK-NAK) N.

a small trifling toy, plaything, amusement, trinket

- ☑ **Syn.** ornament, souvenir, object
- ☒ The room was crowded with ornaments and useless knickknacks.

KNOLL N. (NOLL)

a small hillock, top of a hill

- ☑ **Syn.** hill, hummock, mound, mount
- ☒ The car was parked beyond the knoll.
- ☒ A grassy knoll was visible through the trees.

KNOTTY (NOTTY) Adj.

intricate, difficult, tangled

- ☑ **Syn.** difficult, tricky, awkward, hard
- ★ **Ant.** simple, easy, plain, effortless
- ☒ The knotty problems of our country are poverty, population explosion, poor infrastructure and corruption.

KOWTOW V.

to act in an obsequious way, bow, kneel, genuflect

- ☑ **Syn.** be conventional, be traditional
- ★ **Ant.** rebel, insurgent, mutineer
- ☒ I want a promotion but I'm not prepared to kowtow to the boss for it.

KUDOS N.

prestige, credit, fame

- ☑ **Syn.** status, standing, stature, esteem
- ☒ Kudos to the athlete who won the marathon.

Engineering and Construction

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

CALIPER	:	a two-pronged instrument used to measure diameter or thickness of an object
DOWEL	:	a round peg used to join wooden parts together
FLANGE	:	a projecting rim, edge, collar or ring on a pipe or shaft
GLAZIER	:	one who cuts and fits glass panes for windows
HYDRAULICS	:	the branch of science and technology concerned with the conveyance of liquids through pipes and channels, especially as a source of mechanical force or control
MASONRY	:	stonework
PITON	:	spike hammered into rock fissures or ice to aid in climbing
RASP	:	an abrading tool made of steel
SHAFT	:	a long cylindrical rotating rod for the transmission of motive power in a machine
WINCH	:	a machine used to pull up heavy weights

“L”

LABYRINTH N., **LABYRINTHINE** Adj.

maze, perplexity, a very confusing and intricate problem

- Syn.** warren, jumble, muddle
- Being a novice at international politics, he found it very difficult to navigate through the labyrinth.
- The doctors found it difficult to remove the labyrinthine growths surrounding his lungs.

LACERATE V., **LACERATION** N.

wound, to rip, rend or tear in a harsh way, to distress emotionally

- Syn.** mangle, tear, afflict
- * **Ant.** heal, soothe, cure
- The surgeon lacerated the infected tissue with a scalpel.
- He reserved his most lacerating criticism for the English, whom he detested.

LACHRYMOSE Adj.

producing tears

- He is better known for his lachrymose ballads than hard rock numbers.

LACKADAISICAL Adj.

half-hearted, enervated, sluggish, languid

- Syn.** dilatory, limp, lethargic
- * **Ant.** energetic, lively, active, vigorous
- The food was nice enough but the service was rather lackadaisical.

LACONIC – using very few words

- Syn.** taciturn, brief
- * **Ant.** loquacious, talkative
- She was a laconic poet who built her reputation on using very few words, very effectively.

LAGOON N.

a small lake or pond near a sea

- Syn.** mere, tarn
- Lake Chilka is a fresh-water lagoon.

LAMBAST V.

to thrash, to reprimand severely, rebuke

- China was lambasted by several western nations for its aggression in Tibet.

LAMENT(v) – to deplore, grieve

(n) – burial hymn, moaning

- Syn.** bemoan, bewail
- * **Ant.** celebrate, rejoice
- The children continued to lament the death of the goldfish weeks after its demise.

LAMPOON N., V.

a personal satire, caricature, satire aimed at a person or persons; to ridicule

- Syn.** satirise, parody
- The cartoonist makes lampooning an art.
- The magazine is famous for its merciless political lampoons.

LANGUOR N. **LANGUID** Adj., **LANGUISH** V.

lassitude, tiredness or weakness of body or mind

- Syn.** laziness, torpor, lethargy
- * **Ant.** vigour, energy, dynamism, drive
- He has recovered from chronic malaria but suffers from languor.

LANK Adj.

slender, thin

- Syn.** scrawny, skinny
- * **Ant.** burly, chubby
- The lank Indian cattle give an idea of their malnutrition.

LAP(v) – to drink using the tongue, to wash against

(n) – circuit, stretch

- Syn.** splash, lick up
- The thirsty dog eagerly lapped up all the water in the bowl.

LARCENY – theft of property

- Syn.** pilfering, thievery
- Stealing a wallet can be categorised as a petty larceny.

LARGESSE/LARGESS N.

generosity, liberal donation, bounty, reward

- Syn.** charity, money
- * **Ant.** meanness, nastiness, malice
- The mysterious beneficiary of the largesse is likely to arouse suspicions.

LARYNX – organ containing vocal cords

- ☞ The opera singer's larynx was damaged in the accident, spelling doom for her career.

LASCIVIOUS Adj.

wanton, lustful, lewd, lecherous

- ☞ She was about to obey him and move closer to him when his lascivious leer made her change her mind.

LASSITUDE N.

weakness, acedia, listlessness

- ☑ **Syn.** weariness, lethargy, stupor
- ★ **Ant.** energy, vitality, verve, life, drive
- ☞ The lassitude of law-implementing authorities has led to anarchy in the state.

LATENT – present but hidden, potential

- ☑ **Syn.** dormant, untapped
- ★ **Ant.** obvious, manifest
- ☞ Job rotation can help bring out the latent talent of the employees.

LAUD V., **LAUDABLE** Adj.,

LAUDATORY Adj.

to praise

- ☑ **Syn.** praise, acclaim, extol, mention
- ★ **Ant.** denigrate, disparage, degrade
- ☞ The minister lauded the official's actions.
- ☞ The committee's efforts to raise money for social programmes were laudable.
- ☞ She was the subject of many laudatory articles in the national dailies.

LAUREATE N.

the recipient of honour for achievement in art or science

- ☞ Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's poems are best enjoyed in Bengali.

LAUREL N.

a prize, honour, distinction

- ☞ Behind every laurel lies a lot of sweat and grime.

LAXITY – carelessness

- ☑ **Syn.** laxness, remissness
- ★ **Ant.** vigilance, caution
- ☞ Our newspaper always reaches late because of the delivery boy's laxity.

LECTERN N.

a reading desk on the stage

- ☞ We prepared a glass lectern for the guest of honour to deliver the lecture.

LEERY Adj.

suspicious, cautious

- ☑ **Syn.** distrustful, apprehensive, wary
- ★ **Ant.** trusting, credulous, innocent
- ☞ He is leery about everything he eats out of his home.

LEGIBLE – readable

- ☑ **Syn.** legible, decipherable
- ★ **Ant.** illegible, unreadable
- ☞ Gracy's chickenscratch handwriting was barely legible.

LEGISLATE – to decree, mandate, make laws

- ☑ **Syn.** constitutionalise, ordain
- ☞ Some congressmen make every effort to legislate in favour of powerful business houses.

LENIENT – easygoing, permissive

- ☑ **Syn.** liberal, sparing
- ★ **Ant.** strict, severe
- ☞ When the bowler was only fined a small amount for tampering with the ball, there was an uproar of protest from cricket lovers.

LESION N.

a harmful change in an organ

- ☑ **Syn.** sore, laceration
- ☞ Brain lesions can be caused by bacterial infections.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. irrevocable | a. planned trip route |
| 2. itinerary | b. place side by side |
| 3. judicious | c. exercising sound judgement |
| 4. juxtapose | d. irreversible |
| 5. kinetic | e. active |

1.(d) 2.(a) 3.(c) 4.(b) 5.(e)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

LETHARGIC Adj., **LETHARGY** N.

torpid, sleepy, weary

- ☑ **Syn.** sluggish, tired, weary, lacklustre
- * **Ant.** energetic, lively, vigorous
- ☒ The lethargic government machinery is a drain on our economy.

LEVERAGE N., V.

advantage gained for any purpose

- ☑ **Syn.** influence, power, force, pull
- ☒ In life, you ought to leverage your core strengths.

LEVIATHAN N.

anything huge, gigantic, colossal

- ☑ **Syn.** mammoth, overwhelming, titanic
- * **Ant.** tiny, dwarfish, lilliputian
- ☒ The leviathan statue at Shravan Belagola is world famous.

LEVITATE – to rise in the air or cause to rise

- ☑ **Syn.** escalate, climb
- * **Ant.** plunge, plummet
- ☒ The magician caused his assistant to levitate in the air, and the audience broke into thunderous applause.

LEVITY N.

lack of seriousness or steadiness, frivolity, lightness of approach or treatment, humour

- ☑ **Syn.** cheerfulness, humour, jokiness
- * **Ant.** gravity, seriousness, importance
- ☒ Academicians recognise that a little levity in the classroom helps rather than hinders learning.

LEVY V., N.

impose a fine, collect a payment, to take or require by legal means

- ☑ **Syn.** tax, charge, rates, toll, duty
- ☒ The municipality will have to levy new taxes to cover up its deficit.

LEXICON – dictionary, list of words

- ☑ **Syn.** thesaurus, encyclopedia
- ☒ It is said that the word impossible does not exist in that brave warrior's lexicon.

LIBEL N., **LIBELOUS** Adj.

a written accusation, a malicious defamatory publication, smear

- ☑ **Syn.** defamation, vilification, slander
- * **Ant.** praise, admire, commend, extol
- ☒ Indian politicians seldom sue for libel.
- ☒ The leader was offended by a libelous article about his party in the newspaper today.

LIBERTARIAN – one who believes in unrestricted freedom

- ☑ **Syn.** permissiveness, liberal
- * **Ant.** oppressive, domineering
- ☒ The libertarian refused to pay taxes to the government, as he didn't recognise its jurisdiction over him.

LIBERTINE – one without moral restraint

- ☑ **Syn.** womaniser, philanderer
- * **Ant.** puritan, ascetic
- ☒ The libertine took pleasure in gambling and seducing innocent youths.

LICENTIOUS – immoral, unrestrained by society

- ☑ **Syn.** debauched, wanton
- * **Ant.** moral, virtuous
- ☒ Religious citizens were outraged by the licentious exploits of the community of artists living in the town.

LIMPID – clear, transparent

- ☑ **Syn.** lucid, crystalline
- * **Ant.** murky, inexplicit
- ☒ Nidhi could see all the way to the bottom through the pond's limpid water.

LINEAGE – ancestry

- ☑ **Syn.** descent, genealogy
- ☒ Shruti could trace her lineage back through many generations.

LINGERIE N.

women's underclothing

- ☒ There is a huge business in designer lingerie worldwide.

LINGUISTIC Adj., **LINGUIST** N.

pertaining to language, study of speech, philology

- ☒ The study of linguistics reveals how many English words are borrowed from other languages.

Mini Revision Test*Match each word in the first column with its meaning in the second column.*

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1. labyrinth | a. mourn |
| 2. laconic | b. using few words |
| 3. lament | c. maze |
| 4. lampoon | d. present but not visible |
| 5. latent | e. satirize |

1.(c) 2.(b) 3.(a) 4.(e) 5.(d)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

LIONISE V.

treat as a celebrity

- ☑ **Syn.** glorify, idolise, praise, fete
- ☒ She likes to be lionised but at the same time is afraid of the media.

LIQUIDATE V.

to dispose of, to wind up, to do away with

- ☑ **Syn.** pay a debt, shut down
- ☒ The company will have to be liquidated if it fails to secure new loans by the end of the month.

LISSOME Adj.

nimble, flexible, supple, agile

- ☒ The lissome dancers in the ballet enthralled the audience.

LISTLESS – lacking energy and enthusiasm

- ☑ **Syn.** enervated, spiritless
- ★ **Ant.** energetic, lively
- ☒ Listless and depressed after breaking up with his girlfriend, Neeraj spent his days moping on the couch.

LITANY N.

a prayer, chant, either musical or repetitive, a prayer of entreaty with responses

- ☒ Pooja's litany of complaints seems to have no end.
- ☒ There is a litany of medical problems facing the prison population.

LITERATI N.

intelligentsia, scholarly people

- ☒ Her novels are popular with the university literati but they have failed to attract a wider audience.

LITHE N.

supple, limber, agile, flexible and graceful

- ☑ **Syn.** flexible, lissome, agile, nimble
- ☒ We watched the lithe, beautiful motions of the dancers and were impressed with their physical condition and grace.

LITIGATE V., LITIGATION N.

to dispute by a legal suit

- ☑ **Syn.** go to court, sue, proceedings
- ☒ The village-folks litigate over trivia.
- ☒ Public interest litigations in the SC have exposed many problems to public gaze and attention.

LITTER N., V.

any scattered collection of objects

- ☑ **Syn.** waste, trash, garbage, disorder
- ☒ The littered streets of our colony is an eyesore.
- ☒ We sell most of our straw to the local stables who use it as litter for their horses.

LIVID Adj.

anaemic, ashen, extremely angry, enraged

- ☑ **Syn.** bruised, furious
- ☒ My father was livid at my brother's disobedience.
- ☒ He had a long livid scar across his cheek.

LOATHE V.

to dislike intensely

- ☑ **Syn.** hate, dislike, detest, despise
- ★ **Ant.** adore, love, worship, esteem
- ☒ If the fruits of liberalisation do not trickle down to the masses, they may loathe the process itself.

LOCOMOTION – movement from place to place

- ☑ **Syn.** mobility, transit
- ☒ Some believe that the advent of rapid methods of locomotion speeded up the spread of civilisation.

LOGISTICS N.

the art of movement and supply of army troops; the handling of the details of an operation

- ☒ Without streamlined logistics, army troops can never manoeuvre properly.
- ☒ The resulting improvements in airline operating logistics might even bring airfares down.

LOGO – corporate symbol

- ☑ **Syn.** monogram, trademark
- ☒ Bajaj's logo can be found on all its products.

LOITER V.

amble, dawdle, idle, loaf

- ☑ **Syn.** wait, hang around, linger, dally
- ☒ He loitered on the shore, reluctant to leave.

LONGEVITY N.

great length of life

- ☑ **Syn.** long life, permanence, durability
- ☒ In any business proposition, it is the longevity of the deal that brings in true prosperity.

LOQUACIOUS Adj., LOQUACITY N.

talkative, glib, garrulous, gabby

- ☑ **Syn.** effusive, rambling
- ★ **Ant.** taciturn, silent, reserved, aloof
- ☒ Her loquacity has landed her in trouble.
- ☒ She was very loquacious about her experiences.

LUCID Adj., LUCIDITY N.

transparent, easily understood, clear and distinct, intelligible

- ☑ **Syn.** logical, coherent, cogent, plain
- ★ **Ant.** confused, puzzled, baffled
- ☒ A journalist's prose should have lucidity but a literary style is not necessary.
- ☒ The drugs she's taking make her drowsy and confused but there are times when she is quite lucid.

LUCRE N. LUCRATIVE Adj.

sordid gain, riches, money, capital

- ☒ The greed for lucre got him involved with criminals.

LUDICROUS Adj.

ridiculous, absurd, comical, laughable, absurd

☑ **Syn.** foolish

* **Ant.** sensible, sane, reasonable

☒ He knew he looked ludicrous in the costume but he was bent upon wearing it for the duration of the party.

LUGUBRIOUS Adj.

mournful, sad, dismal, looking or sounding profoundly sad

☑ **Syn.** gloomy, doleful, cheerless

* **Ant.** cheerful, happy, smiling, joyful

☒ The lugubrious atmosphere of the morgue made him queasy.

LUMINARY – bright object, celebrity, source of inspiration

☑ **Syn.** dignitary, megastar

* **Ant.** nobody, pleb

☒ The luminaries of Bollywood gathered for a charitable cricket match in Mumbai.

LUMINOUS – bright, brilliant, glowing

☑ **Syn.** shining, incandescent

* **Ant.** dark, dull

☒ The luminous moon shone right through the curtains into the bedroom.

LUNATIC Adj., **LUNACY** N.

a madman, maniac

☑ **Syn.** outrageous, crazy, foolish

* **Ant.** sensible, rational, reasonable

☒ It seems that his love for the woman has turned him into a lunatic.

LUNAR – relating to the moon

☒ The scientists analysed the lunar rocks for traces of water.

LURID Adj.

melodramatically sensational, shocking, ugly, violent, excessively pale looking, provoking horror, gruesome

☑ **Syn.** loud, bright, garish

☒ She told me all the lurid details of her affair.

LUSCIOUS Adj.

delightful, fulsome, sweet

☑ **Syn.** juicy, succulent, fresh

* **Ant.** bland, withered, dry, shrivelled

☒ Fondness for luscious sweets are sometimes worse than addiction to wine.

LUSH Adj.

rich and juicy, luxuriant

☑ **Syn.** verdant, abundant, green

* **Ant.** arid, dry, baked, barren

☒ Kerala is one of the most lush green states.

☒ The old *gurukuls* used to be set amidst lush green surroundings.

LUXURIANCE – elegance, lavishness

☑ **Syn.** splendour, magnificence

* **Ant.** austerity, poverty

☒ The luxuriance of the couches made them an obvious choice for the palace sitting room.

LYRICAL – suitable for poetry and song, songlike

☑ **Syn.** melodic, subjective

* **Ant.** harsh, objective

☒ Ambar's lyrical talents made him a gifted poet and songwriter.

LYNCH V.

to judge and put to death without the usual form of law

☑ **Syn.** string up, hang, assassinate, kill

☒ The errant truck driver was lynched by the mob.

Mini Revision Test

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

1. lethargy
2. levity
3. loquacious
4. lucid
5. lugubrious

- a. lightness
- b. taking a lot
- c. sluggishness
- d. exaggeratedly mournful
- e. easy to understand

1.(c) 2.(a) 3.(b) 4.(e) 5.(d)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

“M”

MACABRE Adj.

gruesome, deathlike, horrible, eerie

- ☑ **Syn.** ghoulish, ghastly, grisly, chilling
- ☒ Even the police were horrified at the macabre nature of the killings.

MACHIAVELLIAN (*MAKIAVELLIEN*) Adj.

crafty, perfidious in activity, based on amoral political rules

- ☑ **Syn.** evil, wicked, deceitful, fraudulent
- ☒ The Machiavellian activities of our politicians surprise no one.

MACHINATE V., **MACHINATION** N.

to form a plot for doing some harm

- ☑ **Syn.** plot, conspire, plan
- ☒ The arrested person revealed about the machinations of the assassination.

MACHO Adj., **MACHISMO** N.

aggressive, dominant, domineering, he-man

- ☒ He's too macho to admit he was hurt when his girlfriend left him.

MACROCOSM

the entire universe, a complex that is a large-scale reproduction of one of its parts

- ☑ **Syn.** cosmos, galaxy
- ★ **Ant.** microcosm, model
- ☒ In a welfare society, the state can be considered a macrocosm of the family in that it takes care of the elderly and children.

MAELSTROM

whirlpool, turmoil, agitated state of mind

- ☑ **Syn.** tumult, eddy
- ☒ The transportation system of the city had collapsed in the maelstrom of war.

MAESTRO N.

a master, especially an eminent music composer or conductor

- ☑ **Syn.** genius, expert, ace, whiz
- ★ **Ant.** amateur, unpaid, recreational
- ☒ The sitar maestro Pt. Ravishankar will give a recital this evening.

MAGNANIMOUS Adj., **MAGNANIMITY** N.

generous, large-hearted, not petty, noble and generous in victory as well as defeat, forgiving

- ☑ **Syn.** benevolent, kind, chivalrous
- ★ **Ant.** petty, mean, malicious, obdurate
- ☒ Arsenal's manager was magnanimous in victory and praised the losing team.

MAGNATE N.

a very powerful person, VIP, tycoon

- ☑ **Syn.** attraction, inducement, pull
- ☒ Bombay and Surat are inhabited by diamond magnates.

MAGNITUDE

extent, greatness of size

- ☑ **Syn.** immensity, vastness
- ★ **Ant.** smallness, triviality
- ☒ When she saw the large wet patches on the walls, she realised the full magnitude of repairs the house needed.

MAGNILOQUENT Adj.,

MAGNILOQUENCE N.

pompous, boasting

- ☒ The magniloquent contestant sounded too rude.

MAGNUM OPUS N.

a great work especially of literature or learning

- ☒ Paradise Lost is John Milton's magnum opus.

MAIM V.

to disfigure, mutilate

- ☒ Many maimed bodies were recovered from the bogies of the ill-fated train.

MALADROIT Adj.

unskillful, clumsy, gauche, faltering, inept

- ☑ **Syn.** awkward, ungainly
- ☒ Her lack of self-confidence does make her rather maladroit in social situations.

MALADY N.

disease, fault, illness

- ☑ **Syn.** problem, difficulty, trouble, woe
- ☒ Inefficiency is the biggest malady plaguing the Indian industry.

MALAISE N.

uneasiness, a feeling of discomfort

- ☑ **Syn.** depression, disquiet, melancholy
- ★ **Ant.** optimism, sanguinity, buoyancy
- ☒ She wrote about the depression and malaise felt by women trapped in their suburban homes.

MALAPROPISM N.

Verbal blunder, misapplication of words

- without mispronunciation, wrong use of a similar sounding word
- ☒ In the sentence, "The price of food in Japan is gastronomical", the word 'gastronomical' is a malapropism, because it should be 'astronomical.'

MALCONTENT N.

a person who is not satisfied

- ☑ **Syn.** dissident, nonconformist
- ☒ The usual malcontents turned up for the meeting and made trouble.

MALEDICTION N.

cursing, a calling down of evil

- * **Ant.** benediction
- ☒ Malediction, if heart-felt, does come true at times.

MALEFACTOR N.

an evil-doer, a criminal

- * **Ant.** benefactor
- ☒ A malefactor policeman can wreak havoc.

MALEVOLENT Adj., MALEVOLENCE N.

ill-disposed, wishing evil, sinister, ominous, bad, intense hatred

- * **Ant.** benevolent
- ☒ The character was not entirely malevolent; the author made a point of showing her good qualities as well.

MALFEASANCE N.

mismanagement, malpractice

- ☒ Several cases of malpractice and malfeasance in the financial world are currently being investigated.

MALFUNCTION

breakdown, failure

- ☒ **Syn.** collapse, impairment
- ☒ The malfunction of the booster rocket meant that the space shuttle could not be launched on schedule.

MALICE N., MALICIOUS Adj.

ill-will, spite, antipathy, animosity, acrimony

- ☒ **Syn.** hatred, malevolence, cruelty
- * **Ant.** compassion, gentleness
- ☒ One of my malicious students has spread canards about me.
- ☒ Killing the neighbour's dog was an act of sheer malice.

MALIGN Adj., V., MALIGNANT N.

baleful, injurious, malignant, to speak of in an evil way, to defame or slander; having an evil influence

- ☒ **Syn.** slander, criticise, libel
- * **Ant.** praise, admire, commend
- ☒ Elaborate and specialised treatment is required to prevent the spread of a malignant disease.
- ☒ She has maligned my reputation because she has a prejudiced view.

MALODOROUS

foul-smelling

- ☒ **Syn.** fetid, putrid
- * **Ant.** fragrant, aromatic
- ☒ The malodorous beggar stood no chance of winning anyone's sympathy.

MALNUTRITION

undernourishment

- ☒ **Syn.** anorexia, hunger
- ☒ The child's distended stomach and spindly limbs were sure signs of malnutrition.

MAMMOTH Adj.

very huge, colossal, goliath, promethean

- ☒ **Syn.** enormous, huge, massive
- * **Ant.** tiny, minute, little, small, petite
- ☒ Cleaning up the Yamuna is going to be a mammoth task.

MANDATORY

necessary, required

- ☒ **Syn.** obligatory, compulsory
- * **Ant.** optional, voluntary
- ☒ It is mandatory for all company employees to wear blue uniforms while on the job.

MANIFEST(adj.) – obvious (v) – demonstrate

- ☒ **Syn.** show, exhibit
- * **Ant.** hide, mask
- ☒ The fact that she had had plastic surgery was manifest, since she looked 20 years younger than she did the previous week.

MANIFESTO N.

a written public declaration

- ☒ **Syn.** policy, proposal, programme
- ☒ Manifestos of all political parties are high-sounding and therefore alluring.

MANIFOLD

diverse, varied, comprising many parts

- ☒ **Syn.** multitudinous, multifarious
- * **Ant.** simple, single
- ☒ The manifold tourist attractions of London make it a great place to visit.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. martyr | a. lying |
| 2. maudlin | b. overly sentimental |
| 3. mendacious | c. one who dies for a cause |
| 4. mentor | d. teacher |
| 5. mercenary | e. hired soldier |

1.(c) 2.(b) 3.(a) 4.(d) 5.(e)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Tes

MANTLE N.

a symbol of authority, coat

- ☒ She unsuccessfully attempted to assume the mantle of presidency.

MANUAL(adj.) – operated by hand

(n) – instruction book

- ☑ **Syn.** physical, non-automatic
- ★ **Ant.** automatic, mechanical
- ☒ When the power lines went down, the secretary dug out his old manual typewriter to finish the letters.

MANUMIT V.

emancipate, free from bondage, release from slavery

- ☒ The authorities in our big temples should come forward and manumit the *devdasis*.

MAR – to damage, deface, spoil

- ☑ **Syn.** disfigure, detract
- ★ **Ant.** improve, enhance
- ☒ The telephone poles marred the natural beauty of the countryside.

MARAUDER N., MARAUD V.

a plunderer, a raider, seeker of goods, pillager

- ☑ **Syn.** raider, looter, prowler, intruder
- ☒ The marauders burst into the camp, shooting into houses, hurling stones and smashing car windows.

MARGARINE N.

a butter-like substance, fat or lard used in cakes, desserts etc.

- ☒ I prefer my toast with margarine.

MARGINAL – barely sufficient

- ☑ **Syn.** insignificant, minimal
- ★ **Ant.** vast, gross
- ☒ Because her skills were marginal, she was paid a very low salary.

MARIJUANA N.

cannabis, *ganja*, grass

- ☒ Regular smoking of marijuana can cause short-term memory loss and long-term health problems.

MARINATE V., MARINATION N.

to soak food in a liquid or paste; a step in food preparation

- ☒ Marinate the chicken in white wine for a couple of hours before frying.

MARITIME Adj.

pertaining to the sea, having a sea coast

- ☑ **Syn.** marine, naval
- ☒ The blockade of the ports has eliminated maritime trade but some supplies are still getting through over land.

MARSHAL V., N.

to lead solicitously, to place in proper rank and position; a high-ranking military official

- ☑ **Syn.** assemble, line up, position
- ★ **Ant.** dismiss, give notice, reject
- ☒ The fighting in the city followed reports of the rebels marshalling their forces in the countryside.

MARSUPIAL Adj.

mammals that carry their young ones in a pouch

- ☒ Kangaroos are marsupials.

MARTIAL

warlike, pertaining to the military

- ☑ **Syn.** combative, soldierly
- ★ **Ant.** civil, civilian
- ☒ Experts in martial arts know how to defend themselves using their bare hands.

MARTINET

strict disciplinarian, one who rigidly follows rules

- ☑ **Syn.** bully, authoritarian
- ★ **Ant.** liberal, lenient
- ☒ A complete martinet, the official insisted that Pankaj fill out all the forms again even though he was already familiar with his case.

MARTYR

person dying for his or her beliefs

- ☒ Joan of Arc became a famous martyr after she was burned at the stake for her beliefs.

MASCOT N.

a talisman, one who brings good luck

- ☑ **Syn.** lucky charm, amulet
- ☒ There's a competition for designing a mascot for the commonwealth games.

MASOCHISM N., MASOCHIST N.

pleasure obtained by being tortured by others, gratification in pain

- ☒ He was so lazy that, for him, the marathon was nothing short of masochism.

MASQUERADE

disguise, action that conceals the truth

- ☑ **Syn.** pretence, deception
- ★ **Ant.** honesty, candour
- ☒ The rogue who was masquerading as a senior police officer managed to dupe several wealthy persons.

MASTICATE V.

to chew or grind to a soft material before swallowing

- ☑ **Syn.** munch, crunch, chomp
- ☒ Ayurvedic drugs need to be masticated.

MATERIALISM

preoccupation with material things

- Syn.** worldliness
- Hermits renounce materialism.

MATRON N., MATRONLY Adj.

An elderly lady of staid and sober habits

- The matron of a hostel or a hospital has to be ruthless at times.
- The woman was too matronly to suit this kind of job.

MAUDLIN Adj.

weepy, excessively sentimental

- Syn.** mawkish, sappy, slushy, mushy
- * **Ant.** unemotional, impassive
- Every Saturday night, he drank until he was quite maudlin.

MAUL V.

to handle roughly, beat, bruise

- Mauled by her brother-in-law, Seema filed a report of physical abuse at the police station.

MAUSOLEUM N.

a large tomb

- Syn.** crypt, burial chamber
- The mausoleum of Akbar is at Sikandra in Agra.

MAVERICK N.

a nonconformist, a stray person, unorthodox person

- Syn.** eccentric, rebel
- * **Ant.** conformist, follower
- He was considered as something of a maverick in the publishing world.

MAWKISH

sickeningly sentimental

- Syn.** sickening, nauseating
- * **Ant.** cool, impassive
- The poet hoped to charm his lover with his romantic poem, but she was put off by its mawkish tone.

MAXIM N.

proverb, a truth pithily stated, repeated saying of truth

- Syn.** adage, proverb
- A Silicon Valley company is about to test the maxim that smaller is always better for computers.

MAYHEM N.

a violent or noisy situation

- Syn.** chaos, disorder, turmoil
- * **Ant.** arrange, sort, organise, regulate
- The mayhem at the site of accident was beyond control.

MEAGRE Adj.

deficient, scrawny

- Syn.** scanty, paltry, trifling
- * **Ant.** abundant, plentiful, enough
- Meagre resources are major obstacles to growth in infrastructure .

MEANDER V.

to wander aimlessly, to follow a winding course

- Syn.** roam, amble, stroll, rove
- * **Ant.** rush, hurry, dash, sprint
- Narmada meanders through the Vindhya-chals and enters Gujarat.
- We spent the afternoon meandering around the streets of the old town.

MEDDLER

person interfering in others' affairs

- Syn.** intruder, interloper
- Mickey is a real meddler, always ready with unsolicited suggestions and offers of help.

MEDDLESOME Adj.

very officious, interfering

- Syn.** intrusive, nosy
- We have very meddlesome neighbours, who always want to know what we're doing.

MEDIEVAL

relating to the Middle Ages (about 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D.)

- In medieval times, diseases considered trivial today killed thousands, because medicine was not very advanced.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. mercurial | a. gloomy |
| 2. metamorphosis | b. magical change in form |
| 3. mitigate | c. soften |
| 4. mollify | d. moderate the effect of |
| 5. morose | e. emotionally unpredictable |

1.(e) 2.(b) 3.(d) 4.(c) 5.(a)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

MEDLEY N.

a mingled mass, mixture, assortment

- ☑ **Syn.** combination, mix, jumble
- ☒ There was a medley of stalls in the book fair.
- ☒ Discotheques play a medley of dance numbers to keep the rhythm going.

MEEK Adj.

submissive, patient and long suffering

- ☑ **Syn.** humble, timid, gentle
- * **Ant.** assertive, confident, forceful
- ☒ The law still seems to regard women as meek and submissive and men as strong breadwinners.

MEGALITH

huge stone used in prehistoric structures

- ☒ The archaeologist wondered how the prehistoric tribe had managed to move the gigantic megalith to the top of the hill.

MEGALOMANIAC N.

a person having a hunger for greatness and power

- ☒ The breed of megalomaniacs is increasing nowadays.
- ☒ The rulers in many countries build the tallest structures just to satisfy their megalomania.

MELANCHOLY N., MELANCHOLIC Adj.

sadness, suffering, grief, sorrow, abnormal dejection, excessively low spirit

- ☑ **Syn.** sad, depression, low, down
- * **Ant.** cheerful, happy, jovial, positive
- ☒ Dilip Kumar is an actor who is famous for melancholic roles.

MELANGE (MAYLANZH) N.

a mixture of different elements

- ☑ **Syn.** concoction, brew, combination
- ☒ Her book presents an interesting melange of ideas from different philosophies.

MELLIFLUOUS Adj.

sweetly or smoothly flowing, very smooth

- ☑ **Syn.** smooth, honeyed
- * **Ant.** harsh, cruel, callous
- ☒ The mellifluous tunes of Beatles songs made them living pop legends.

MELLOW Adj., V.

soft and ripe, well matured, melodic

- ☑ **Syn.** smooth, rich, full, soft
- * **Ant.** harsh, cruel, unsympathetic
- ☒ Age mellows the wildest of youth.

MELODRAMATIC Adj., MELODRAMA N.

exaggerated, histrionic, overdone, sensational

- ☒ If all Hindi films are not melodramatic, what are they ?
- ☒ We Indians love melodrama, be it TV serials or films.

MELODY

pleasing musical harmony, related to music

- ☑ **Syn.** tunefulness, lyricism
- ☒ The hit pop song had the same basic melody of a favourite old song.

MENACE N.

threat, danger, nuisance

- ☑ **Syn.** danger, hazard, peril
- ☒ Teenage drivers are a traffic menace.

MERCENARY (adj.)

motivated only by greed, money-minded

(n) – hired soldier

- ☑ **Syn.** rapacious, materialistic
- * **Ant.** charitable, philanthropic
- ☒ Many celebrated "explorers" were actually mercenary plunderers.

MERCURIAL

quick, shrewd, and unpredictable

- ☑ **Syn.** volatile, unpredictable
- * **Ant.** stable, constant
- ☒ Her mercurial temper made it difficult for her team to arrive at a rational decision.

MERIDIAN

imaginary circle passing through the two poles of the Earth

- ☒ The explorer attempted to follow the meridian from the North Pole to the South Pole, but his ship failed to negotiate the icebergs.

MERITORIOUS

deserving reward or praise

- ☑ **Syn.** praiseworthy, commendable
- * **Ant.** worthless, discreditable
- ☒ The student's meritorious performance won him a scholarship.

MENDACITY N., MENDACIOUS Adj.

untruthfulness, lying, deceiving, falsity

- ☑ **Syn.** dishonesty, deceit, lies, falsehood
- ☒ Mendacity is the hallmark of most Indian politicians.
- ☒ The mendacious saint was in for a public thrashing now that he was exposed.

MENDICANT N., MENDICANCY N.

a beggar

- ☒ Mendicancy seems to be a thriving business in India.

MENIAL Adj., N.

work of a servile or humiliating nature, blue-collar work

- ☑ **Syn.** unskilled, boring, tedious, basic
- * **Ant.** skilled, capable, expert, able
- ☒ The lot of the menials will never improve in the world.
- ☒ Many nurses find themselves given menial tasks, such as making beds and washing patients, which make little use of their skills.

MENTOR

experienced teacher and wise adviser

- ☑ **Syn.** trainer, counsellor
- * **Ant.** disciple, student
- ☒ Ruchi asked her mentor for help to choose the right college.

MERETRICIOUS Adj.

flashy, gaudy, glamorous in a cheap and showy way, rooted in bigotry and hypocritical views

- ☒ He claims that a lot of journalism is meretricious and superficial.

METAPHOR

figure of speech comparing two different things

- ☑ **Syn.** figurative expression, analogy
- ☒ The metaphor "a sea of troubles" suggests a lot of troubles by comparing their number to the vastness of the sea.

MESMERISE V.

hypnotise, captivate, engross, charm

- ☑ **Syn.** enthrall, entrance
- * **Ant.** bore, tire, irk, bore stiff
- ☒ The audience was completely mesmerised by her singing.

METAMORPHOSIS N.

a sudden or drastic change in characteristics, unexplainable but usually very noticeable change of form or character

- ☒ The collapse of communism caused the metamorphosis of the erstwhile USSR.

METE V.

to allot, give out

- ☒ Corrupt and criminal politicians should be meted out proper punishment.

METEORIC Adj.

breakneck, explosive, spectacular, speedy

- ☑ **Syn.** dramatic, sudden, swift, rapid
- * **Ant.** gradual, slow, regular, measured
- ☒ Anyone who has a meteoric rise can fall to the lowest depth in life.

METICULOUS Adj.

very careful about minute details, showing extreme care in all respects

- ☑ **Syn.** scrupulous, thorough, fussy
- * **Ant.** careless, slapdash, casual, sloppy
- ☒ A copy editor must correct written materials meticulously so that the published material is as perfect as possible.

METTLE

quality of character, courage, endurance

- ☑ **Syn.** fortitude, tenacity
- * **Ant.** cowardice, irresolution
- ☒ The pilot showed his mettle, landing the helicopter very close to the wounded soldiers, despite the heavy winds.

MIASMA N., **MIASMATIC** Adj.

swamp gas, heavy, vaporous atmosphere, often emanating from decaying matter

- ☒ A mist of pollution hung in the air over the city.

MICROBE

a microorganism like bacterium, particularly the kind that causes disease

- ☒ The discovery that microbes caused certain diseases was a major medical breakthrough.

MIGRATORY

wandering from place to place with the seasons

- ☑ **Syn.** translocation, migrating
- ☒ Bird watchers started gathering near the lake, in anticipation of the arrival of the migratory birds.

MILIEU N.

the surroundings or atmosphere

- ☑ **Syn.** setting, environment, locale
- ☒ The European milieu is a shock to the Asians at first.

MINATORY Adj.

having a menacing quality, threatening

- ☒ Munna threatened to kill the Sharma family and his minatory gaze said it all.

MINCE V.

to cut into tiny sections, to talk or walk in an affected or overly dainty manner, to hold back words discreetly

- ☑ **Syn.** cut up, chop up, hash
- ☒ Do not mince words with me – tell me what you're thinking.
- ☒ Mince two pounds of chicken finely for preparing *kebabs*.

MINUSCULE – very small

- ☑ **Syn.** diminutive, tiny
- * **Ant.** vast, huge
- ☒ Dave needed a magnifying glass to read the minuscule print on the lease agreement.

MIRE V., N.

entangle, stick in swampy ground, deep mud, also unpleasant situation

- ☑ **Syn.** swamp, marsh, sludge, slush
- ☒ Their expedition was hampered temporarily because the vehicles of their caravan were mired in the mud.

MIRTH N.

gladness or gaiety accompanied with laughter

- ☑ **Syn.** glee, hilarity
- * **Ant.** dejection, gloom
- ☒ An atmosphere of mirth prevailed in the freshers' party at Hindu college.

MISANTHROPE N., **MISANTHROPIC** Adj.

a person who hates his fellow human beings

- ☒ Hitler was often called a misanthrope.
- ☒ His tendency to avoid any company is almost misanthropic.

MISAPPREHEND

to misunderstand, misconstrue

- ☑ **Syn.** confuse, misjudge
- ☒ The policeman misapprehended the situation and arrested Mohan, although Prahlad was the guilty one.

MISCONSTRUE V.

to misinterpret, misjudge, misrepresent

- ☑ **Syn.** misunderstand, misread
- * **Ant.** understand, appreciate, know
- ☒ Their caution was misconstrued as cowardice.

MISCREANT N.

an evildoer

- ☑ **Syn.** scoundrel, malefactor
- ☒ Police apprehended the miscreants on the eve of *holi*.

MISDEMEANOUR N.

bad conduct, a misdeed, violation, crime, offense

- ☒ The government apologised for police misdemeanour.

MISERLINESS

extreme stinginess

- ☑ **Syn.** thrift, penuriousness
- * **Ant.** generosity, liberality
- ☒ Although Mohandas was a rich man, he was too much of a miser to help others.

MISGIVINGS N.

doubts

- ☑ **Syn.** qualms, worries, fears
- ☒ Misgivings should be done away with because they break up families and spoil lives.

MISHAP

accident, misfortune

- ☑ **Syn.** setback, adversity
- * **Ant.** fortune, fortuity
- ☒ In an unfortunate mishap, the actress broke her arm and could not perform that night as planned.

MISNOMER

an incorrect name or designation

- ☒ Some feel that "peacemaker" is a misnomer for a nuclear missile.

MISOGAMIST N., MISOGAMY N.

a person hating marriage

- ☒ G.B. Shaw was often accused of being a misogamist.
- ☒ Failed marriages are creating misogamy in today's youth.

MISOGYNIST N., MISOGYNY N.

a person hating women

- ☒ The club's refusal to allow women to become members is sheer misogyny.

MITIGATE

to soften, or make milder

- ☑ **Syn.** palliate, appease
- * **Ant.** aggravate, intensify
- ☒ The judge may mitigate the sentence if he is convinced that the crime was committed in self-defence.

MNEMONIC Adj.

pertaining to memory

- ☒ Things, phone numbers, words etc. can be remembered with mnemonic tricks.

MOCK

to deride, ridicule

- ☑ **Syn.** jeer at, scorn
- * **Ant.** inspire, encourage
- ☒ Charles suspected that Toni was mocking him behind his back, and decided to be on his guard with her.

MODERATE

to make less excessive, restrain, regulate

- ☑ **Syn.** curb, diminish
- * **Ant.** aggravate, increase
- ☒ The engineer moderated the flow of electricity to the house after its fuses blew repeatedly.

MODICUM N.

a very small amount

- ☑ **Syn.** little, bit, degree
- ☒ Given time, modicum of rancour can blow up into full-fledged vendetta.

MODUS OPERANDI N.

the manner of operating or working

- ☒ The modus operandi of the crime suggested a mafia hand.

MOGHUL N.

powerful person who has great wealth and power

- ☑ **Syn.** tycoon, industrialist, magnate
- ☒ Subhash Chandra, already a TV mogul is now thinking of venturing into newspapers.

MOLLIFY

to calm or make less severe

- ☑ **Syn.** appease, allay
- * **Ant.** enrage, inflame
- ☒ Their argument was so intense that it was difficult to believe any compromise could mollify them.

MOLLYCODDLE V.

to pamper

- ☒ She mollycoddled the irate child by buying him a soft toy.

MOMENTOUS Adj.

extremely important, crucial, decisive

- ☑ **Syn.** important, significant, crucial
- ☒ Whether or not to move overseas was a momentous decision for the family.

MONASTIC

extremely plain or secluded, as in a monastery

- ☑ **Syn.** ascetic, austere
- * **Ant.** luxurious, indulgent
- ☒ The philosopher retired to his monastic lodgings to contemplate life, away from any worldly distraction.

MONOCHROMATIC

having one colour

- ☒ The multicoloured butterfly really stood out in the monochromatic foliage of the clearing.

MONOGAMY

custom of marriage to one person at a time

- ☑ **Syn.** wedding, matrimony
- * **Ant.** polygamy
- ☒ Monogamy is the accepted norm in Indian culture, though some members of certain religions take more than one wife.

MONOLITHIC Adj., **MONOLITH** N.

solidly uniform, unyielding; a massive structure

- ☒ Many PSUs in our country are monolithic in structure.

MONOLOGUE

dramatic speech performed by one actor

- ☑ **Syn.** soliloquy, spiel
- * **Ant.** dialogue, conversation
- ☒ The actor skilfully varied the tone and pace of his 40-minute monologue to make it interesting.

MONUMENTAL Adj.

commemorative, memorial, columnar

- ☑ **Syn.** colossal, epic, huge, vast
- * **Ant.** small, little, minute, tiny, petite
- ☒ Monumental strides in the field of electronics have made the little things in life a lot more convenient.

MORATORIUM N.

legal delay of payment, stopping of an activity for a period

- ☑ **Syn.** suspension, freeze, halt, pause
- ☒ A general moratorium on repayment of agricultural loans provides farmers some room to try and overcome their problems.

MORBID Adj.

induced by disease, pessimistic, brooding, grisly, macabre

- ☑ **Syn.** morose, gloomy, dark, moody
- * **Ant.** cheerful, happy, cheery, joyful
- ☒ The morbid declaration of doomsday or the end of the world can frighten some people.

MORDANT Adj.

biting, sarcastic, stinging, cutting to the heart of the matter, incisive

- ☑ **Syn.** caustic, acerbic, scathing
- * **Ant.** gentle, mild, kind, calm
- ☒ Celebrities fear the mordant coverage of their private life by the press.

MORGUE N.

a place where dead bodies are kept for identification

- ☑ **Syn.** motherly, caring, tender
- ☒ To identify the dead in the morgue is in itself a mortifying act.

MORIBUND Adj.

about to die, in a dying state

- ☑ **Syn.** declining, waning, past it
- * **Ant.** thriving, flourishing, booming
- ☒ The old Indian social structure appears to be in a moribund state.

MORON N.

a feeble-minded person

- ☒ Some moron smashed into the back of my car yesterday.

MOROSE

gloomy, sullen or surly

- ☑ **Syn.** taciturn, sulky
- * **Ant.** cheerful, communicative
- ☒ After he was rejected by the university of his choice, Amit was morose for weeks.

MORTIFY V.

to humiliate, to deaden, subdue, to destroy

- ☑ **Syn.** degrade, crush, shame
- ☒ She remembered how mortified she'd been as a child, having to wear her sister's old dress to school.

MOTIF N.

a theme, design, issue, argument

- ☑ **Syn.** pattern, image, decoration
- ☒ The typical motifs in ancient Indian palaces is due to the assimilation of Mughal architecture.
- ☒ We chose some curtains with a floral motif.

MOTLEY Adj.

heterogeneous, assorted, diverse, of different, oddly grouped parts

- ☑ **Syn.** assorted, diverse, varied
- ☒ The museum has been converted into offices and is now inhabited by a motley assortment of architects, designers and artists.

MOTTLED Adj.

spotted

- ☑ **Syn.** dappled, spotty
- ☒ The mottled deer is so beautiful that it's worth watching.

MOULT

to shed hair, skin, or an outer layer periodically

- ☒ The snake moulted its skin and left it behind in a crumpled mass.

MOUND N.

a hillock, a heap

- ☑ **Syn.** heap, pile, stack, mass, load
- ☒ Archaeologists are investigating whether the small hill is really a burial mound

MULCT V., N.

to defraud or cheat; a fine, a penalty

- ☒ The new ruler mulcted the citizens in the name of a new city development fund.

MULTIFACETED

having many parts, many sided

- ☒ The multifaceted actor played five different roles in a single film, executing each to perfection.

MULTIFARIOUS

diverse

- ☑ **Syn.** varied, manifold
- ★ **Ant.** homogeneous, uniform
- ☒ India is famous for its multifarious culture and cuisine.

MUNDANE Adj.

commonplace, everyday, earthly as opposed to heavenly, worldly, ordinary or run-of-the-mill, menial

- ☑ **Syn.** dull, routine
- ★ **Ant.** foreign, from abroad, exotic
- ☒ Mundane matters such as eating and drinking do not excite her any longer.

MUNIFICENCE N., **MUNIFICENT** Adj.

magnificent liberality in giving, very liberal, generous in giving, lavish

- ☑ **Syn.** largesse, benevolence
- ☒ Sir Swaraj Paul is known for his munificence.

MUTABLE Adj., **MUTATION** N.

variable, subject to change

- ☑ **Syn.** changeable, changing
- ★ **Ant.** fixed, permanent, unchanging
- ☒ Mutable government policies keep investors at bay.
- ☒ In today's changing environment, a company has to maintain a mutable stand on policy matters.

MUTILATE V., **MUTILATION** N.

cripple, damage, disfigure

- ☑ **Syn.** maim, injure, hurt, harm
- ☒ Repeated amendments have mutilated the constitution.

MUTINY N., **MUTINOUS** Adj.

defiance, disobedience, insurrection, rebellion

- ☑ **Syn.** revolt, sedition, uprising
- ☒ The mutinous crew had endangered the passengers on the plane.
- ☒ The disillusionment has deepened to open mutiny in the ranks of the soldiers.

MUZZLE V., N.

to silence; mouth, snout

- ☑ **Syn.** silence, gag, shut up, quiet, stifle
- ☒ A good administrator never muzzles dissent.

MYOPIC Adj.

nearsighted, shortsighted

- ☑ **Syn.** bigoted, intolerant
- ★ **Ant.** broadminded, tolerant
- ☒ Their myopic refusal to act now will undoubtedly cause problems in the future.

MYRIAD Adj.

numberless

- ☑ **Syn.** countless, innumerable, many
- ★ **Ant.** few, little, the minority
- ☒ They offered no solution for all our myriad problems.

Gastronomy

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

BRAISE	:	to cook first by searing, then simmering in a small amount of liquid
BREW	:	make beer, tea or coffee by soaking formation or boiling
COLANDER	:	a perforated basket used to strain water-filled foods
CONFECTIONERY	:	any sweet food comprised primarily of sugar
DECANTER	:	narrow-necked glass container used to hold and serve wine
GASTRONOMY	:	the science of preparing and serving food
PASTEURIZE	:	to sterilize by raising and lowering temperature to prevent fermentation and growth of bacteria
SAUTE	:	fry briefly over high heat
TRUSS	:	to secure (hold together) with skewers or twine before cooking
ZEST	:	the outside rind of any citrus fruit which contains the essential oils used for flavoring

“N”

NADIR N.

the lowest point of something, absolute bottom

- ☑ **Syn.** lowest point, depths
- * **Ant.** zenith, peak, pinnacle
- ☒ The defeat was the nadir of her career.

NAIVE (NAAEEV) Adj. **NAIVETE** N.

simple, natural, ingenuous, frank, unworldly, unsophisticated, unaffected, innocent; quality of being unsophisticated

- ☑ **Syn.** immature, adolescent, green
- * **Ant.** complicated, stylish, difficult
- ☒ They make the naive assumption that because it's popular it must be good.

NARCISSISM N., **NARCISSIST** N.

excessive self-admiration, egotism, vanity; conceited person

- ☑ **Syn.** selfishness, conceit
- ☒ Actors must need a certain amount of narcissism to get up on stage and perform in front of an audience.

NASCENT – starting to develop, coming into existence

- ☑ **Syn.** embryonic, incipient
- * **Ant.** established, dying
- ☒ The advertising campaign was still in a nascent stage, and the details were yet to be finalised.

NATAL Adj.

instinctive, genetic, inherent, inborn

- ☑ **Syn.** biological, birth, natural
- ☒ The natal gentleness of a cat can be seen in the kittens.

NATATION N.

Swimming

- ☒ The instructor emphasised the need for courses in natation.

NATTY Adj., **NATTILY** Adv., **NATTINESS** N.

smart and fashionable.

Syn. smart, fashionable, dapper, trendy

Ant. scruffy, untidy, dirty

- ☒ Malaika is a natty dresser and sets fashion trends.

NEBULOUS Adj.

hazy, vague, ambiguous, confused, fuzzy, unformed, indistinct

- ☑ **Syn.** vague, imprecise, unformulated
- * **Ant.** precise, exact, accurate, specific
- ☒ Our plan for touring the West had been so nebulous that every night on the trip, we had to pore over guidebooks, deciding where to go next.

NECROMANCY N.

witchcraft, sorcery, black magic

Syn. wizardry, occultism, enchantment, divination

- ☒ It is sad but true that even educated people believe in necromancy.

NEFARIOUS Adj.

wicked, villainous, vicious, perverse, evil

- ☑ **Syn.** evil, despicable, immoral
- * **Ant.** reputable, upright, honest
- ☒ The nefarious activities of the mafia pervade Italy.

NEGLIGIBLE

not worth considering

- ☑ **Syn.** insignificant, trivial
- * **Ant.** significant, considerable
- ☒ It is obvious from our negligible dropout rate that our students love our course.

NEMESIS N.

an agent of retribution, a terrible opponent

- ☑ **Syn.** vengeance, retribution, doom
- ☒ Avarice may prove to be the nemesis of man.

NEOLOGISM N.

new or newly coined word or phrase

- ☑ **Syn.** new expression, new term, new phrase, coinage
- ☒ The newspaper used the neologism DINKS to describe the couple--double income no kids.

NEONATE

newborn child

- ☒ After the gas leak, the intensive care unit was filled with neonates having respiratory problems.

NEOPHYTE N.

tyro, novice, beginner, dilettante

- ☑ **Syn.** tenderfoot, recruit
- * **Ant.** veteran, expert, professional
- ☒ Unfortunately the manual is written by people who seem to have forgotten that most of their readers are neophytes.

NEPOTISM N.

undue patronage to one's relations

- ☑ **Syn.** favouritism, partiality, bias
- ☒ The government was dismissed following revelations about corruption, nepotism and political incompetence.

NETHER Adj.

lower

- ☑ **Syn.** posterior, rear, hind
- * **Ant.** front, forefront, fore
- ☒ The boiler room is somewhere down in the building's nether regions.

NETTLE V.

to sting, bother

- ☑ **Syn.** annoy, irritate, exasperate, vex
- ☒ She looked up at me sharply, clearly nettled by the interruption.

NEUTRALITY

disinterestedness, impartiality

- Syn.** fairness, lack of prejudice
- * **Ant.** partiality, bias
- ☒ Switzerland is well known for its neutrality in times of international conflict.

NEXUS N.

association, link, connection

- ☒ The notorious politician-criminal nexus in India seems unbreakable.

NIBBLE V.

to bite gently, chew, gnaw

- Syn.** chew, gnaw, bite, eat
- ☒ While sitting idle, he kept on listlessly nibbling at the food.

NICETY

elegant or delicate feature, minute distinction

- Syn.** nuance, subtlety
- ☒ Rani went to fancy parties all summer, enjoying the niceties of upper-crust society.

NICHE (NISH) N.

a recess in a wall, a special place

- Syn.** position, place, slot, function
- ☒ Marketers are concentrating on niche markets.

NIFTY Adj.

fine, smart, sharp, neat

- Syn.** ingenious, clever, natty, neat
- ☒ The nifty receptionist in the front lobby was attracting all eyes.
- ☒ Thanks for a nifty piece of work !

NIGGARDLY Adj.

stingy, thrifty, greedy, parsimonious, very tight with money or means, penurious

- Syn.** stingy, meagre, miserly, measly
- * **Ant.** kind, liberal, giving, charitable
- ☒ The company's niggardly salaries discouraged many of its employees, who began to look elsewhere for better pay.

NIHILISM N., NIHILITY N.

a belief in nothing, extreme scepticism; nothingness

- ☒ Nihilism is the backlash of the rampant materialism, consumerism and heartless modern life.

NIGGLE V., N.

cause slight but persistent annoyance

- Syn.** Irritate, annoy, worry, trouble
- ☒ I don't react any more when opponents try and niggle me.

NIT-PICKING Adj.

carping, fault-finding, finicky, hairsplitting

- ☒ Nit-picking never delivers goods.
- ☒ In the fight against corruption, the macro issues must be targeted first; nitpicking should not mislead the crusade.

NOCTURNAL Adj.

of night, operating in the night

- Syn.** of the night, night
- ☒ Owls are nocturnal creatures. Most bats and owls are nocturnal.

NOISOME Adj.

extremely offensive to the senses (esp. smell), highly objectionable

- Syn.** obnoxious, offensive, repugnant
- * **Ant.** pleasant, sweet-smelling
- ☒ The jailhouse was a noisome dungeon.

NOMAD N. NOMADIC Adj.

wanderer

- Syn.** rover, traveller, drifter
- ☒ At heart he was a nomad.

NOMENCLATURE

terms used in a particular science or discipline

- Syn.** language, terminology
- ☒ Although I've been studying medicine for six months, I just can't seem to get the nomenclature right.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. mundane | a. a huge number |
| 2. myriad | b. new word |
| 3. nebulous | c. evil |
| 4. nefarious | d. ordinary |
| 5. neologism | e. vague |

1.(d) 2.(a) 3.(e) 4.(c) 5.(b)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

NOMINAL

existing in name only, negligible

- ☑ **Syn.** titular, official
- * **Ant.** real, substantial
- ☒ A nominal but far from devout Catholic, she rarely went to church.

NONCHALANT Adj. **NONCHALANCE** N.

unconcerned, careless, unceremonious

- ☑ **Syn.** casual, offhand, unflappable
- * **Ant.** concerned, worried, troubled
- ☒ Unlike many of the runners who were obviously nervous, the champion seemed almost nonchalant before the race.

NONDESCRIPT Adj.

not easily classified, commonplace, dull

- ☑ **Syn.** ordinary, dull, uninteresting
- * **Ant.** special, particular, individual
- ☒ The meteorological bureau is in a nondescript building on the outskirts of town.

NONPAREIL Adj.

matchless, unequalled

- ☒ Performance-wise "Gone with the Wind" remains nonpareil.

NONPLUS V.

surprise, astonish, amaze, baffle, discomfit

- ☑ **Syn.** unnerve, throw, stump
- ☒ Diana's candid interview nonplussed many.

NON SEQUITUR Adj.

an irrelevant conclusion, an illogical statement

- ☒ It was obvious that he was not paying attention during the discussion as he came up with a non sequitur.

NOSTALGIA N.

sentimental longing for past times, reminiscence, recollection

- ☑ **Syn.** wistfulness, longing
- ☒ Nostalgia is the last resort of fallen heroes.

NOSTRUM N.

a secret or quick remedy

- ☒ There are no nostrums available for the chronic ailments of Indian society.

NOTORIETY

unfavourable fame

- ☑ **Syn.** infamy, disrepute
- * **Ant.** low profile, anonymity
- ☒ Arjun realised from the silence that greeted him as he entered the bar that his notoriety preceded him.

NOVICE

apprentice, beginner

- ☑ **Syn.** learner, inexperienced
- * **Ant.** veteran, expert
- ☒ Although Julie is still a novice at sailing, she shows great potential.

NOXIOUS Adj.

hurtful, deadly, lethal, baneful

- ☑ **Syn.** harmful, toxic, poisonous
- * **Ant.** harmless, safe, risk free
- ☒ The noxious fumes from modern automobiles, industries etc. are polluting the environment.

NUANCE N.

shade of difference in meaning or colour

- ☑ **Syn.** shade, tone, gradation, tinge
- ☒ The artist has managed to capture every nuance of the woman's expression.

NUBILE Adj.

suitable for marriage.

- ☒ She is worried about finding a husband for her nubile daughter.

NUGATORY Adj.

futile, worthless

- ☒ The advice was nugatory as every member of the team committed the same old blunders.

NUGGET N.

a lump

- ☑ **Syn.** piece, bit, chunk, hunk, wad
- ☒ Confucius's philosophy consists of many nuggets of wisdom.
- ☒ A chicken or fish nugget is a small piece that has been covered in bread crumbs and fried.

NULLIFY

to make legally invalid; to counteract the effect of

- ☑ **Syn.** annul, repeal
- * **Ant.** ratify, validate
- ☒ Rowling nullified her contract with her publisher when she received a better offer from another company.

NUMISMATIST N.

person who collects coins

- ☒ The numismatist's collection of antique coins is unique because he has taken pains to document the history of every coin.

NUPTIAL Adj.

pertaining to marriage

- ☑ **Syn.** marriage, wedding, bridal
- ☒ Apparently, the nuptial knot is tied stronger in the east than in the west.

“0”

OAF N.

stupid, awkward person

- Syn.** lout, boor, barbarian
- * **Ant.** civilised, sophisticated, intelligent
- ☞ The servant was so used to being called a clumsy oaf that he almost stopped responding to his real name.

OBDURATE Adj.

hardened in heart and feelings

- Syn.** obstinate, stubborn, tenacious
- * **Ant.** meek, flexible, faltering
- ☞ The President remains obdurate on the question of cutting taxes.

OBEISANCE N.

an act of reverence, a bow

- Syn.** bob, bend, curtsy
- ☞ The noblemen came forward one by one and made their obeisance before the queen.

OBFUSCATE V.

to darken, obscure, confuse

- Syn.** confuse, conceal, disguise
- * **Ant.** clarify, make clear, simplify
- ☞ She was criticised for using arguments that obfuscated the main issue.

OBLIQUE – indirect, evasive, misleading, devious

- Syn.** slanting, sloping
- * **Ant.** straight, direct
- ☞ Usually open and friendly, Ashok has been behaving in a curiously oblique manner lately.

OBLITERATE V.

to blot out, to efface, raze, annihilate, terminate

- Syn.** nullify, quash, wipe out
- * **Ant.** validate, authorise, confirm
- ☞ Obliterate your own weaknesses before you point a finger another.

OBLIVION N. OBLIVIOUS Adj.

the condition of being forgotten, exile, emptiness; inattentive, unmindful

- Syn.** forgetfulness, stupor,
- * **Ant.** awareness, alertness
- ☞ After all that she went through she welcomed the great oblivion of sleep.
- ☞ He was oblivious to the danger around him.

OBLOQUY N.

slander, disgrace, infamy

- Syn.** humiliation, disgrace, misery
- * **Ant.** honour, credit, tribute
- ☞ Regardless of the provocation, the obloquy on her character was in bad taste.

OBNOXIOUS Adj.

offensive, objectionable

- Syn.** hateful, abhorrent, unbearable
- * **Ant.** nice, good, find
- ☞ Obnoxious effluents from the industries have polluted all our rivers.

OBSCENITY N. filthiness, perversion; indecent act or word

- ☞ Obscenity is a relative term.
- ☞ A woman shouted obscenities at the speaker.

OBSCURE Adj., V

not distinct, make unclear

- Syn.** concealed, undistinguished
- * **Ant.** obvious, distinct, noticeable
- ☞ The teacher's explanation was so obscure that the students were forced to approach another tutor.

OBSEQUIOUS Adj.

sycophantic, excessively servile

- Syn.** flattering, toadying, submissive
- * **Ant.** assertive, forceful, confident
- ☞ The young employee decided to adopt an obsequious approach to win a promotion.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. nihilism | a. in name only |
| 2. nominal | b. subtle difference |
| 3. noxious | c. belief in the absence of all values and morals |
| 4. nuance | d. stubborn |
| 5. obdurate | e. harmful |

1.(c) 2.(a) 3.(e) 4.(b) 5.(d)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

OBSESSED Adj. , **OBSESSION**

consumed, dominated; fixed idea

- ☑ **Syn.** gripped, fixed, passionate
- * **Ant.** uninterested, indifferent, aloof
- ☒ The government seems obsessed by the need for secrecy.

OBSESSIVE – preoccupying, all-consuming

- ☑ **Syn.** addictive, fanatical
- * **Ant.** balanced, practical
- ☒ Shyam is obsessive about his work; he never leaves the office before 10 at night.

OBSOLETE Adj.

out of use, outdated, antiquated, archaic

- ☑ **Syn.** out of date, outdated, past it
- * **Ant.** up-to-date, new, advance
- ☒ The obsolete ideas of the clergy are the biggest obstacles facing the women of the world.

OBSTETRICIAN N.

physician specialising in the delivery of children

- ☒ An obstetrician has special training in caring for pregnant women and in helping with childbirth.

OBSTINATE Adj.

dogged, immovable, persistent, stubborn, adamant

- ☑ **Syn.** fixed, adamant, persistent
- * **Ant.** compliant, obedient, amenable
- ☒ There is a thin line between being determined and being obstinate.

OBSTREPEROUS Adj.

noisy, clamorous, unruly, boisterous

- ☑ **Syn.** hostile, defiant, sullen
- * **Ant.** cheerful, joyful, in good spirits
- ☒ The shop announced heavy discounts but failed to placate its obstreperous customers as the goods were sold out within an hour.

OBTRUDE V. **OBTRUSION** N.

become noticeable in an unwelcome or intrusive way

- ☒ The sound of the boisterous laughter obtruded the silence of the temple.

OBTRUSIVE – pushy, too conspicuous

- ☑ **Syn.** noticeable, prominent
- * **Ant.** unobtrusive, inconspicuous
- ☒ I think that huge portrait that you hung in the hall is a bit obtrusive.

OBTUSE Adj.

blunt, dull, insensitive

- ☑ **Syn.** dull-witted, thick, slow
- * **Ant.** intelligent, able, quick
- ☒ Media always hype up the obtuse statements of controversial authorities.

OBVIATE V.

to eliminate a difficulty

- ☑ **Syn.** prevent, hinder, avert
- * **Ant.** permit, let, sanction
- ☒ A peaceful solution would obviate the need to send a UN military force.

OCCLUDE V. , **OCCLUSION** N.

shut, close

- ☒ Prejudice and bigotry occluded reason and common sense as the riots raged on.

OCCIDENT N.

the west

- ☒ Globalisation have blended the cultures of the occident and the orient.

OCCULT Adj.

secret, hidden, esoteric

- ☒ She claims to have occult powers, given to her by some mysterious spirit.

OCULAR Adj. **OCULIST** N.

pertaining to the eye, optical, visual; physician who specialises in the treatment of the eyes

- ☑ **Syn.** visual, optical
- ☒ An ocular operation can correct the vision of a person.
- ☒ An oculist is required to have a degree in ophthalmology.

ODIOUS Adj. **ODIUM** N.

monstrous, disgraceful, atrocious; detestation

- Syn.** hateful, loathsome, repulsive
- * **Ant.** pleasant, amiable, charming
- ☒ Henry Bavington plays the part of Mr. Grimes, the odious headmaster.
- ☒ His trial has led to widespread public odium.

ODYSSEY N.

a long trip, a trip fraught with dangers

- ☒ The film follows one man's odyssey to find his mother from whom he was separated at birth.

OFFICIOUS Adj.

interfering, meddling

- Syn.** bossy, fussy, intrusive
- * **Ant.** submissive, docile, passive
- ☒ He's an officious little man and widely disliked in the company.

OFFSHOOT – branch

- Syn.** side shoot, tendril
- * **Ant.** trunk, bole
- ☒ The company encouraged the growth of the small spare parts shops as offshoots of the main factory.

OGLE V.

to look at fondly, amorously

- Syn.** look at, stare at, gaze at
- ☒ His riches made people ogle at his balance sheet.

OLIGARCHY N.

government by a few, rule of elite

- ☒ Do you think oligarchy is preferable to dictatorship?

OMINOUS Adj.

threatening, sinister, impending

- Syn.** gloomy, menacing, warning
- * **Ant.** reassuring, supportive, cheering
- ☒ There was an ominous silence when I asked for the renewal of my contract.

OMNIPOTENT Adj.

all-powerful, invincible

- Syn.** all-powerful, invincible, supreme
- * **Ant.** powerless, toothless, immobilised
- ☒ Even the omnipotent Hitler was finally defeated.

OMNISCIENT – having infinite knowledge, all-seeing

- Syn.** all-knowing, all-wise
- * **Ant.** ignorant, illiterate
- ☒ Christians believe that because God is omniscient, they cannot hide their sins from Him.

OMNIVOROUS – eating everything, absorbing everything

- Syn.** indiscriminate, undiscriminating
- * **Ant.** discriminate, selective
- ☒ She is an omnivorous reader, covering everything from comics to Premchand.

ONEROUS Adj.

burdensome, oppressive

- Syn.** arduous, heavy, difficult
- * **Ant.** easy, , simple, painless
- ☒ To achieve 100 percent literacy is an onerous task.

ONOMATOPOEIA N.

words that sound like the noises they refer to.

- ☒ "Hiss", "buzz" and "squelch" are onomatopoeic words.

ONUS N.

burden, responsibility

- Syn.** responsibility, burden, duty
- ☒ The onus lies with the customer to check every detail before signing any contract.

OPALESCENT – iridescent, displaying colours

- Syn.** multicoloured, prismatic
- ☒ The infant, fascinated by the opalescent stone, stared at it for hours on end.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. officious | a. misleadingly apparent |
| 2. onerous | b. impossible to see through |
| 3. opaque | c. annoyingly helpful |
| 4. ostensible | d. showing off |
| 5. ostentatious | e. burdensome |

1.(c) 2.(e) 3.(b) 4.(a) 5.(d)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

OPAQUE – impervious to light, difficult to understand

- ☑ **Syn.** non-transparent, obscure
- * **Ant.** transparent, translucent
- ☒ The heavy buildup of dirt and grime made the car windows almost opaque.

OPINE – to express an opinion

- ☑ **Syn.** think, suggest
- ☒ The rude participant in the show opined that the guest was a pathetic excuse for a human being.

OPPORTUNE Adj.

very right or fit

- ☑ **Syn.** fitting, apt, right
- * **Ant.** inappropriate, wrong, unsuitable
- ☒ Be prepared to grab the opportune moment.

OPPORTUNIST – one who takes advantage of circumstances

- ☒ Dozens of opportunists travelled to the earthquake-struck region to sell food and water to the victims.

OPPROBRIOUS – disgraceful, contemptuous

- ☑ **Syn.** abusive, scornful
- * **Ant.** laudatory, praising
- ☒ Despite his opprobrious addiction to gambling, the governor was re-elected.

OPPROBRIUM N.

disgrace, infamy, ignominy

- ☑ **Syn.** abuse, vituperation, condemnation
- Ant.** praise, accolade, encomium
- ☒ The international community heaped opprobrium on the country after its unprovoked invasion of its neighbour.

OPULENT Adj. **OPULENCE** N.

wealthy, extravagant, cornucopian, luxurious; extreme wealth, luxuriousness, abundance

- ☑ **Syn.** rich, well-to-do
- * **Ant.** poor, impoverished, destitute
- ☒ There is great irony in the opulent lifestyle of the so-called godmen.

ORACLE – person who foresees the future and gives advice

- ☑ **Syn.** prophet, fortune teller
- ☒ Omar decided to consult an oracle when he could not make the decision on his own.

ORATOR – lecturer, speaker

- ☒ The new professor's dull tone of voice and lack of energy make him a particularly poor orator.

ORACULAR Adj.

prophetic, hard to interpret, enigmatic

- ☑ **Syn.** predictive, prescient, prognostic
- ☒ The saint spoke in an oracular tone.

ORB – spherical body, eye

- ☑ **Syn.** spheroid, globe
- * **Ant.** non-spherical, polygonal
- ☒ Paramjeet sighed at the sight of the lantern orbs glowing like small moons above the tables in the restaurant.

ORCHESTRATE – to arrange music for performance, to coordinate

- ☑ **Syn.** to arrange, to organise
- * **Ant.** to disorganise, to usurp
- ☒ Though the president took all the credit, it was his wife who had actually orchestrated the entire event.

ORDAIN V.

decree, manage, conduct

- ☒ The council, in its wisdom, has ordained that all the local libraries will remain closed on Mondays.

ORDEAL N.

labour, nightmare, torment, tribulation

- ☒ Travel by bus or train in India is really an ordeal.

ORGY N.

wild, drunken revelry; unrestrained indulgence

- ☑ **Syn.** debauch, carousal, carouse
- ☒ It was a night of wild orgy for them.

ORIENT Adj.

rising, as the sun, Eastern

- ☒ The lore of the orient constantly attracts Western tourists.

ORNATE Adj.

elaborate, florid, showy, decorated

- ☒ The gates at the marriage reception *pandals* these days are ornate and gaudy.

ORNITHOLOGY N. , **ORNITHOLOGIST** N.

study of birds; scientific student of birds

- ☒ Dr. Salim Ali was a famous ornithologist.
- ☒ Bird watching is just a small activity under the discipline of ornithology.

ORTHOGRAPHY N.

correct spelling

- ☒ Until and unless you master English orthography, you cannot hope to be a good writer.

OSCILLATE – to move back and forth

- ☑ **Syn.** sway, swing
- * **Ant.** remain steady, be sedentary
- ☒ The ancient oscillating fans did little to cool down the room.

OSSEOUS Adj. **OSSIFY** V.

made of bone, bony; change or harden into bone

- ☒ The creature appeared to be osseous, yet very fluid in its movements.

OSTENTATION N. OSTENTATIOUSNESS Adj.

act of showing, boasting; showy

- ☑ **Syn.** pretension, display, affectation
- * **Ant.** modesty, diffidence, reserve
- ☒ Ostentation can only evoke envy not friendship.
- ☒ The ostentatious lifestyles of Bollywood stars evoke much interest among the public.

OSTENSIBLE Adj.

outwardly showing, apparent, likely

- ☑ **Syn.** apparent, suppose, seeming
- * **Ant.** real, actual, true, valid
- ☒ He visited Pakistan ostensibly to visit his brother.

OSTRACISE V.

to boycott socially

- ☑ **Syn.** exclude, banish, shun
- * **Ant.** include, take in, contain
- ☒ For centuries, lepers were ostracised by society and banished to remote colonies.

OUST V.

expel, drive out

- ☑ **Syn.** expel, throw out, exile
- * **Ant.** appoint, employ, hire, sign up
- ☒ He has been ousted from the company for no mistake of his.

OUSTER – expulsion, ejection

- ☑ **Syn.** banishment, debarment
- * **Ant.** including, welcoming
- ☒ After his insane behaviour at the meeting, the chairman faced ouster by his fellow board members.

OUTLANDISH Adj.

bizarre, peculiar, unconventional

- ☑ **Syn.** peculiar, strange, odd
- * **Ant.** run of the mill, average
- ☒ Looking even further into the future, he expected designers to experiment with even more outlandish ideas.

OUTRAGEOUS Adj.

atrocious, barbaric, infamous, monstrous

- ☑ **Syn.** shameful, shocking, offensive
- * **Ant.** commendable, worthy, admirable
- ☒ It is outrageous that these buildings remain empty while thousands of people have no homes.

OVATION N.

applause, enthusiastic reception

- ☑ **Syn.** acclaim, applause, praise
- * **Ant.** jeering, mocking, hissing
- ☒ The royal ballet received a thunderous ovation when they performed here two months ago.

OVERT Adj.

open to view

- ☑ **Syn.** open, clear, plain, evident
- * **Ant.** hidden, unseen, unknown
- ☒ His overt life showed him to be a very respectable and kind man.

OVERSTATE – to embellish, exaggerate

- ☑ **Syn.** over-dramatise, over-emphasise
- * **Ant.** understate, play down
- ☒ I do not want to overstate this, but I need you to understand the seriousness of the situation.

Linguistics

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

ASSONANCE	:	repetition of sounds, especially vowel sounds, in a word or phrase
DIALECTOLOGY	:	branch of linguistics concerned with dialects
ELOCATIVE	:	causing an emotional reaction in the listener (or reader)
INTONATION	:	the melodic pattern produced by the variation in pitch of the voice during speech
LOCUTION	:	any utterance, expression, or phrase
PERORATION	:	the concluding part of a public address or speech (especially, summing up and recapitulating key points and /or exhorting and uplifting the audience)
PHONETIC	:	based on sounds (e.g, th phonetic spelling of a word)
REBUS	:	the representation of a word by pictures or symbols
SEMANTIC	:	involving signs (especially, words) and the things (ideas) they are intended to signify
SYNTAX	:	construction of a sentence; arrangement of words in a sentence.

“P”

PACHYDERM N.

an animal with a thick skin, such as an elephant, a rhinoceros or hippopotamus, also an insensitive person

- ✗ Call a politician a pachyderm and he will probably take it as a compliment.

PAEAN N.

song of praise or joy

- ☑ **Syn.** exaltation, panegyric, alleluia
- ✗ I wonder if singing paeans to our freedom fighters once or twice a year is sufficient to instil patriotism in our children.

PACIFIST

one opposed to war

- ☑ **Syn.** peace-lover, appeaser
- * **Ant.** warmonger, belligerent
- ✗ For one who claimed to be a pacifist, Dinesh was surprisingly fond of weapons of war.

PALATABLE Adj. **Palate** N.

tasteful, nice to eat, appetising, delectable, agreeing with your taste buds or your mind, pleasing

- ☑ **Syn.** edible, pleasant, tasty
- * **Ant.** bland, tasteless, dull
- ✗ The meal was barely palatable – in fact, I thought it was disgusting.

PALATIAL

like a palace, magnificent

- ☑ **Syn.** luxurious, opulent
- * **Ant.** modest, humble
- ✗ After living in a one-room flat for five years, Amrita thought the modest one-bedroom house looked downright palatial.

PALEONTOLOGY N. **PALEONTOLOGIST** N.

the study of fossils

- ✗ Paleontology has revealed a lot about the evolution of life on planet Earth.

PALETTE N.

a thin board used by artists to mix colours

- ✗ She mixes her colours on the canvas rather than on the palette.

PALINDROME N.

a word or phrase which is spelt the same backwards and forwards

- ✗ The word Malayalam is a palindrome.
- ✗ You can cage a swallow, can't you but you can't swallow a cage, can you? (*Try reading the sentence backwards, last word first.*)

PALLIATE V. **PALLIATION** N.

ease pain, make less severe or offensive

- ✗ We should palliate the suffering of the poor affected by the landslide.

PALLID Adj.

weak, pale, without colour

- ☑ **Syn.** pale, white, ashen
- * **Ant.** colorful, pink, rosy
- ✗ A pallid complexion could be the symptom of a disease.

PALPABLE Adj., **PALPITATION** N.

tangible, obvious, detectable, noticeable

- ☑ **Syn.** blatant, flagrant, overt
- * **Ant.** covert, hidden
- ✗ The sense of excitement among the crowd was palpable.

PALTRY Adj.

insignificant; petty

- ☑ **Syn.** worthless, measly, trivial
- * **Ant.** substantial, large, considerable
- ✗ The company offered Jeremy a paltry sum which he refused.

PAN V.

criticise harshly

- ☑ **Syn.** censure, attack, lambaste, condemn
- * **Ant.** praise, commend, applaud
- ✗ Sulman Rushdie's latest book has been panned by critics.

PANACEA N.

the ultimate cure for everything, remedy, cure

- ☑ **Syn.** cure-all, solution, answer
- ✗ Education is a panacea for India's problems.

PANACHE N.

flair, flamboyance, behaviour, speech, dash or verve

- ☑ **Syn.** flamboyance, flair, style
- * **Ant.** clumsiness, awkwardness
- ✗ The solo passages were played with great panache.

PANDEMIC Adj.

widespread, prevalent over a whole country or the world.

- ☑ **Syn.** pervasive, rife, rampant
- * **Ant.** Sporadic, intermittent, scarce
- ✗ The WHO fears that the AIDS epidemic would soon reach pandemic proportions.

PANDEMONIUM N.

a great uproar and confusion, chaos, indiscipline

- ☑ **Syn.** chaos, mayhem, bedlam, racket
- * **Ant.** peace, calm, order
- ✗ Pandemonium broke out in the burning pandal.

PANDER V.

cater to the low desires of others

- ☒ Hollywood film producers pander to the masses through violence and sex.
- ☒ Political leaders almost inevitably pander to big business.

PANEGYRIC N.

a speech in great praise of someone

- ☒ **Syn.** eulogy, encomium, accolade
- ☒ She delivered a panegyric on the President-elect.

PANORAMA N. PANORAMIC Adj.

complete view or picture of a subject; denoting an unobstructed and a comprehensive view

- ☒ **Syn.** view, scene, vista, landscape
- ☒ This book promises to be a panorama of Indian culture.

PANTOMIME N.

acting or making gestures without speech

- ☒ She did a pantomime of opening a lock and finally I understood that she wanted her room key.

PARADIGM (PARADYME) N. PARADIGMATIC Adj.

model, pattern, an extremely fine model or example of a type, archetype

- ☒ **Syn.** example, model, pattern
- ☒ Tatas, Birlas and Ambanis are the paradigms of great success in business.

PARADOX N.

a thing which seems to contradict itself but may actually be true, a statement that appears to contradict itself but may be true

- ☒ **Syn.** enigma, incongruity, mystery
- ☒ Paradoxically, Ravi ate so much but never put on weight while Ajay bloated on a starvation diet.

PARAGON N.

a perfect model of virtue, excellence etc., treasure, gem, the ideal

- ☒ **Syn.** model, ideal, epitome
- ☒ After hearing repeatedly that our cousin Amy was a paragon of virtue, we lost all interest in meeting her.

PARAMOUNT Adj.

supreme, extreme, above all

- ☒ **Syn.** dominate, chief, principal
- ★ **Ant.** marginal, peripheral, minimal
- ☒ Character and ethics are paramount in whatever you do.

PARAMOUR N.

a term used for an unlawful lover

- ☒ The paramour was thrashed by the husband.

PARANOIA N.

type of a psychological disease where a person feels that everyone is against him

- ☒ **Syn.** fear, suspicion, obsession
- ☒ In his last days, Hitler suffered from paranoia.

PARAPHERNALIA N.

equipment; odds and ends

- ☒ **Syn.** apparatus, kits, implements
- ☒ Her purse contained combs, gloss and other personal paraphernalia.

PARAPHRASE

to reword, usually in simpler terms

- ☒ **Syn.** rephrase, restate
- ☒ In paraphrasing the poet, she lost the eloquence of his style and the punch of his message.

Literature

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

APOCRYPHAL	:	of unknown authorship or doubtful integrity
BALLAD	:	a narrative poem meant for recitation or singing
COLOPHON	:	a publisher's and/or printer's distinctive emblem, monogram or cipher
DENOUEMENT	:	the final unfolding or a plot; the final resolution or outcome following the climax
DOGGEREL	:	poetic verse of generally poor quality; verse characterized by a crude, rough, irregular, or burlesque style
EUPHEMISM	:	a pleasant or complimentary word or phrase used instead of one that is harsh or derogatory to prevent the conveyance of a bluntly honest opinion
FIGURATIVE	:	metaphoric; not to be interpreted literally
MISSIVE	:	a letter, usually formal or official
ODE	:	a literary or musical work
PLAGIARISM	:	the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own

PARASITE

person or animal that lives at another's expense

- ☑ **Syn.** scrounger, leech
- ☒ Sameer was a parasite wasting his wife's money in drinking and gambling.

PARIAH N.

a person ostracised by civilisation, an outcast of society

- ☑ **Syn.** exile, outsider, recluse
- ☒ For his beliefs, Vidyasagar was initially declared a pariah.

PARITY – equality

- ☑ **Syn.** equivalence, congruence
- * **Ant.** disparity, inequality
- ☒ Mrs. Ramanna tried to maintain parity between her two children, although each claimed she favoured the other.

PARLANCE N.

a special way of talking or conversing, expression, verbiage

- ☑ **Syn.** idiom, phrasing, dialect
- ☒ Campus parlance often shocks parents.

PARLEY N. V.

conference (also v)

- ☑ **Syn.** meeting, discussion, confab
- ☒ The parley between the two countries continues but there not much hope of an agreement.

PAROCHIAL Adj.

a restricted, narrow viewpoint; ignorant, unsophisticated

- ☑ **Syn.** narrow, provincial, insular
- ☒ The parochial boundaries of caste and colour have been detrimental to our growth.

PARODY

humorous imitation

- ☑ **Syn.** satire, lampoon
- ☒ Shahana's new play is a thinly veiled parody of corruption in the government.

PAROLE N.

conditional release of a prisoner before his sentence is actually over

- ☒ The crime was committed while the prisoner was out on parole.

PAROXYSM N.

a wild, uncontrollable fit of anger; rage, wrath

- ☑ **Syn.** convulsion, fit, outburst, spasm
- ☒ These proposals have thrown many people into paroxysms of rage.

PARRY V.

ward off a blow, deflect

- ☑ **Syn.** avert, block, counter, evade
- ☒ The boxer ducked and parried the blow.

PARODY

humorous imitation

- ☑ **Syn.** satire, lampoon
- ☒ Shahana's new play is a thinly veiled parody of corruption in the government.

PARSIMONIOUS Adj. PARSIMY N.

miserly with money, stingy, thrifty

- ☑ **Syn.** economical, frugal, saving
- * **Ant.** wastrel, spendthrift, squanderer
- ☒ His parsimonious attitude denied him of friends.

PARSIMONY

stinginess

- ☑ **Syn.** thrift, miserliness
- * **Ant.** extravagance, generosity
- ☒ Ethel gained a reputation for parsimony when she refused to pay for her daughter's college education.

PARVENU N.

a person who has recently acquired riches

- ☒ Rich tastes cannot be expected of a parvenu.

PASSE Adj.

not in current use, old-fashioned, outdated, obsolete

- ☒ Manual typewriters are passe.

PASTICHE N.

imitation of another's style in musical composition or in writing

- ☑ **Syn.** take off, imitation, spoof
- ☒ The critic wrote that the author's latest work was a mere pastiche and lacked originality.

PASTORAL Adj.

related to a calm, peaceful village life, of the country, rustic, bucolic

- ☑ **Syn.** rustic, countrified, rural
- * **Ant.** urban, city, town, municipal
- ☒ The paintings depict beautiful pastoral settings that remind me of my childhood on the farm.

PATERNITY

fatherhood, acquired from the father

- ☒ In this week's episode, the serial's star refuses to reveal the paternity of her child.

PATENT

official document giving exclusive commercial right to an invention

- ☑ **Syn.** copyright, licence
- ☒ Margaret regretted that though she had developed the machine first, she had not bothered to get a patent for it.

PATHOGENIC

causing disease

- ☑ **Syn.** infective, morbid
- ☒ Bina's research on pathogenic organisms should help stop the spread of disease.

PATHOS N.

the quality which arouses a feeling of sorrow, strings of pity, poignancy

- ☑ **Syn.** sadness, pity, sorrow
- ★ **Ant.** joy, delight, pleasure
- ☒ Thomas Hardy's novels were built around pathos.

PATOIS N.

local or provincial dialect

- ☑ **Syn.** vernacular, local parlance, argot
- ☒ It may be the same language but the difference in the patois as one moves from village to village is simply fascinating.

PATRICIDE N.

murder of one's own father

- ☒ In the heat of the moment he committed patricide.

PATRIMONY

heritage derived from one's father

- ☑ **Syn.** inheritance, legacy
- ☒ After the will was read, Pooja asked her brother to donate his share of the patrimony to charity.

PATRONAGE N. PATRONISE V.

giving support or encouragement; support, act superior toward

- ☑ **Syn.** support, backing, aid
- ☒ Bharat Bhavan survives under central government patronage.

PAUCITY N.

scarcity, lack of enough amount, dearth

- ☑ **Syn.** scarcity, rareness
- ★ **Ant.** plethora, excess, surfeit
- ☒ The paucity of funds does not deter a diligent worker.

PAVILION

tent or light building used for shelter or exhibitions

- ☑ **Syn.** marquee, arbour, pergola, bower, gazebo, porch
- ☒ The caterers decorated the pavilion lavishly with lights, streamers and balloons.

PAUPER N.

a poor person, beggar

- ☒ His gambling turned him into a pauper.

PECCADILLO N.

a small error, minor fault, minor flaw, small offense

- ☑ **Syn.** sin, offence, failing, crime
- ★ **Ant.** asset, virtue
- ☒ He dismissed what had happened as a mere peccadillo.

PECUNIARY N.

referring to money, monetary, fiscal

- ☑ **Syn.** financial, fiscal, economic
- ☒ Some hard decisions are overdue in the pecuniary arena.

PEDAGOGUE N.

unpleasant pedantic teacher, who gives too much attention to formal rules and is tedious

- ☒ The pedagogues keep students away from colleges.

PEDANT N. PEDANTIC Adj.

a person always trying to show off his knowledge by pointing out minor errors, a nitpicking type

- ☑ **Syn.** doctrinaire, sophist
- ★ **Ant.** amateur, dabbler
- ☒ In college, where students can often choose their professors, pedants may find their classrooms rather empty.

PEDESTRIAN(adj.) – commonplace

(n) – person on foot, walker

- ☑ **Syn.** plodding, unimaginative, stroller
- ★ **Ant.** imaginative, inspired
- ☒ Although the restaurant's prices were high, critics considered its food little more than pedestrian.

PAEDIATRICIAN

doctor specialising in the care of children and their ailments

- ☒ She chose to be a paediatrician because she loved working with children.

PEER N.

a person of the same rank or class or group

- ☑ **Syn.** gaze, stare, examine
- ★ **Ant.** glance, look, glimpse
- ☒ Peer group pressures dictate teenage behaviour.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. paradox | a. satirical imitation |
| 2. parochial | b. obvious |
| 3. parody | c. narrow in point of view |
| 4. parsimonious | d. contradictory truth |
| 5. patent | e. stingy |

1.(d) 2.(c) 3.(a) 4.(e) 5.(b)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

PEERLESS

unequaled

- ☑ **Syn.** incomparable, unmatched
- ☒ Harpreet's dedication to the cause of creating greater awareness about leprosy has been peerless.

PEEVED Adj., **PEEVISH** Adj.

annoyed, bad tempered

- ☑ **Syn.** annoyed, irritated, irked, piqued
- * **Ant.** pleased, satisfied, content
- ☒ They were peeved that the trip was reduced from the usual three weeks to 10 days.

PEJORATIVE Adj.

disapproving, disparaging, making something worse

- ☑ **Syn.** derogatory, negative, critical
- * **Ant.** positive, optimistic, helpful
- ☒ Something terrible must have happened for 'home' to have such a pejorative connotation for him.

PELLUCID Adj.

transparent, limpid

Syn. clear, comprehensible, lucid**Ant.** clouded, vague, confusing

- ☒ Readers enjoy Stephen Hawkin's pellucid writing.

PENANCE N.

punishment accepted to make amends for some sins committed earlier

- ☑ **Syn.** atonement, contrition, remorse
- ☒ As penance, she said she would buy them all a box of chocolates.

PENCHANT (*PAYSHAY*) N.

a strong liking or inclination for something

- ☑ **Syn.** liking, fondness
- ☒ His penchant for cars turned him into a car collector.
- ☒ Her penchant for disappearing for days at a time worries her family.

PENITENT N.

one who is sorry for having done something wrong

- ☑ **Syn.** apologetic, remorseful
- ☒ A penitent Bharat followed Ram to the forest.

PENSIVE Adj.

dreamily thoughtful; contemplative

Syn. philosophical, cogitative, ruminative**Ant.** joyful, cheerful

- ☒ I tried to cheer Mohan out of his pensive mood.

PENULTIMATE

next to last

- ☒ The low-scoring cricket match ended in the first hour of the penultimate day of the five-day test.

PENURY N.

extreme poverty, great lack of something

- ☑ **Syn.** poverty, destitution
- * **Ant.** affluence
- ☒ His childhood was spent in penury.

PERDITION N.

damnation; complete ruin

Syn. doom, condemnation, destruction

- ☒ The clergy spoke passionately about perdition for all sinners.

PEREGRINATION N.

journey

- ☒ The political leader undertook a peregrination across the country, in what he called a "journey of discovery."

PEREMPTORY Adj.

demanding and leaving no choice

- ☑ **Syn.** authoritative, dictatorial
- * **Ant.** polite, civil, gracious
- ☒ It was a peremptory order for promotion with transfer and he had to accept it.

PERENNIAL – present throughout the year, persistent

- ☑ **Syn.** ceaseless, perpetual
- * **Ant.** seasonal, temporary
- ☒ This is a perennial flowering plant and will look good in your garden.

PERFIDY N. **PERFIDIOUS** adj.

faithlessness, disloyalty, treachery

- ☑ **Syn.** disloyalty, deceit, lying
- ☒ The double agent was punished for his perfidy.

PERFUNCTORY Adj.

mechanical, rapid, superficial, symbolic, hollow

- ☑ **Syn.** unthinking, automatic, dutiful
- * **Ant.** thoughtful, considerate
- ☒ Perfunctory medical examinations often fail to detect serious ailments.

PERIPATETIC Adj.

walking about; moving

- ☑ **Syn.** nomadic, itinerant, migrant
- * **Ant.** stationary, fixed, unmoving
- ☒ Finally, tired of his peripatetic lifestyle, he decided to settle down with a stable job.

PERJURE V. **PERJURY** N.

to tell lies in a court of law where you have sworn to tell the truth

- ☑ **Syn.** equivocate, misstate, concoct
- ☒ Perjury is a punishable offence under the law.

PERMEABLE

penetrable

- ☑ **Syn.** porous, absorbent
- * **Ant.** impermeable, watertight
- ☒ Karishma discovered that her new raincoat was permeable when she was drenched in the rain, in spite of wearing the coat.

PERNICIOUS N.

harmful, evil, bad, wicked

- ☑ **Syn.** destructive, harmful, deadly
- * **Ant.** harmless, safe, nontoxic
- ☒ The pernicious effects of alcohol and tobacco cannot be debated.

PERPETRATE V.

commit an offence

Syn. inflict, wreak, bring about

- ☒ The insurgents perpetrated a series of offences against the government.

PERPETUAL

endless, lasting

- ☑ **Syn.** everlasting, eternal
- * **Ant.** transitory, intermittent
- ☒ Although objects may appear solid, electrons that make up every object are actually in perpetual motion.

PERSECUTE V.

to torment, to treat cruelly

- ☑ **Syn.** hound, pursue, bully
- ☒ Galileo was persecuted for his beliefs.

PERSPICACIOUS Adj.

one who has brilliant insight, sharp

- ☑ **Syn.** insightful, wise, astute
- * **Ant.** dense, opaque, solid
- ☒ His perspicacious grandfather had bought the land as an investment, guessing that there might be gold underground.

PERT Adj.

impertinent, forward

- ☑ **Syn.** animated, alert, lively
- * **Ant.** listless, languid, lethargic
- ☒ Your pert remarks will do you no good; it might result in a loss.

PERTINACIOUS Adj.

stubborn; persistent

- ☑ **Syn.** tenacious, assiduous, resolute, intractable
- * **Ant.** tentative, irresolute, wavering
- ☒ Sujata was very pertinacious in her quest for the right information.

PERTINENT

applicable, appropriate

- ☑ **Syn.** relevant, apposite
- * **Ant.** irrelevant, inappropriate
- ☒ The supervisor felt that his employee's complaints were pertinent and mentioned them in the meeting.

PERTURB V.

to disturb, make anxious, to bother greatly or annoy, to disquiet, discompose

- ☑ **Syn.** trouble
- ☒ The news that her son had been arrested by the police perturbed her greatly.

PERTURBATION

disturbance

- ☑ **Syn.** fluster, discomfiture
- * **Ant.** reassurance, comfort
- ☒ Grandpa sleeps so soundly that no perturbation can wake him up.

PERUSAL

close examination

- ☑ **Syn.** scrutiny, inspection
- ☒ When you fly, your carry-on luggage is always subject to the perusal of customs officials.

PERUSE V.

inspect, comprehend, examine

- ☑ **Syn.** read thoroughly, scrutinise
- * **Ant.** skim, glide, float
- ☒ He opened a newspaper and began to peruse the personal advertisements.

PERVASIVE Adj. , PERVADE V.

spread throughout; become part of something else, to permeate

- ☑ **Syn.** invasive, insidious
- * **Ant.** enveloping, persistent
- ☒ The government's reforms are being undermined by all-pervasive corruption in the country.

PERVERSION N.

corruption, turning from right to wrong

- ☑ **Syn.** parody, caricature, distortion
- ☒ He was always honest, upright and straightforward; so it is difficult to understand his perversion.

PERVERT(v)

to cause to change in immoral way; to misuse

- (n) – degenerate, debauchee
- ☑ **Syn.** distort, warp
- * **Ant.** consecrate, sanctify
- ☒ Chandan objected when the opposing lawyer seemed to be perverting the truth.

PETRIFY V.

to turn to stone, to horrify, to scare

- ☑ **Syn.** frighten, terrify, horrify
- ☒ It was a petrifying sight at Latur after the tremors stopped.

PETTY Adj.

trivial, unimportant, very small

- ☑ **Syn.** little, trivial
- * **Ant.** important, vital, significant
- ☒ It is surprising that petty quarrels ultimately led to the couple's separation.

PETULANT Adj. **PETULANCE** N.

irritable, bad-tempered, ill-humoured and peevish, occasionally rude, ill-mannered

- ☑ **Syn.** huffy, snappish, grouchy
- * **Ant.** relaxed, easygoing, calm
- ☒ One colleague recalled the dancer's petulant refusal to collect an award because her name had been wrongly pronounced.

PHILANDERER N.

faithless lover, flirt

- ☑ **Syn.** libertine, playboy, seducer
- * **Ant.** chaste, faithful
- ☒ No woman would ever want a philanderer as her husband.

PHILANTHROPY Adj.

monetary or volunteer promotion of mankind's welfare, generous giving of self or resources

- ☒ Your generous acts of philanthropy are greatly appreciated by the beneficiary institutions.

PHILATELIST N.

stamp collector

- ☒ The high value of the old rare stamps is what motivates many to become philatelists.

PHILISTINE N.

person unsympathetic to the arts, narrow-minded

- ☒ I wouldn't have expected them to enjoy a film of that quality anyway -- they're just a bunch of philistines!

PHLEGMATIC Adj.

calm, not easily annoyed, imperturbable, sluggish, slow, showing little emotions, impassive, stolid

- ☑ **Syn.** apathetic, indifferent, placid
- * **Ant.** energetic, lively, active
- ☒ As a footballer his great asset was his calm, phlegmatic manner.

PHOBIA

exaggerated illogical fear

- ☑ **Syn.** dread, fixation
- * **Ant.** obsession, mania
- ☒ According to Tanya her phobia of spiders started when she was bitten by one in the school.

PHONETICS

study of speech sounds

- ☒ The field of phonetics had interested Ila ever since she conquered her stammering as a teenager.

PICTURESQUE Adj.

very artistic, beautiful, charming, special, uncommon

- ☑ **Syn.** charming, striking, quaint
- ☒ The picturesque sights of Kashmir attract thousands of tourists from all over the world.

PIEBALD Adj.

of different colours; mottled; spotted

- ☑ **Syn.** speckled, pied, variegated
- ☒ The farmer rode a piebald horse.

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PILFER

to steal

- ☑ **Syn.** embezzle, misappropriate
- ☒ Marianne did not pilfer the money for herself but rather for her sick brother, who needed some medicine.

PILFERAGE N.

theft, burglary, misappropriation

- ☒ Railways lose millions due to pilferage.

PINNACLE N.

the topmost point, acme, apex, peak, zenith

- ☑ **Syn.** summit, peak, height
- * **Ant.** base, bottom, foot
- ☒ Indian cricket was at its pinnacle in the 70's.

PIOUS

dedicated, devout, extremely religious

- ☑ **Syn.** spiritual, sanctimonious
- * **Ant.** irreligious, impious
- ☒ Shantanu, a pious man, walks to the temple everyday and prays.

PIQUANT Adj.

pleasantly interesting, amusing

- ☑ **Syn.** spicy, hot
- * **Ant.** bland, insipid
- ☒ More piquant details of the former official's private life were revealed.

PIQUE N.

resentment, annoyance, indignation

- ☑ **Syn.** interest, attract
- ☒ He stormed from the room in a fit of pique shouting that he had been misunderstood.

PITHY Adj. **PITH** N.

concise, meaty; core, marrow, essence

- ☑ **Syn.** terse, condensed, curt
- * **Ant.** convoluted, complicated
- ☒ He gave a pithy summary of his political views.

PITTANCE N.

low wages or allowances

- ☑ **Syn.** meagre amount, trifle, nothing
- ☒ When you pay a pittance, don't expect the best brains to work for you.

PLACATE V.

to calm, soothe, make less angry, assuage, allay, appease, particularly by offering to be good; to do a favour for someone

- ☑ **Syn.** pacify, conciliate
- * **Ant.** enrage, infuriate
- ☒ It takes skill, experience and guts to placate an irate mob.

PLACEBO N.

an innocuous or inert medication, given as a pacifier or as part of experiments on the efficacy of a drug

- ☑ **Syn.** sop, gesture
- ☒ Placebos are sometimes used to treat psychosomatic disorders.

PLACID

calm, imperturbable

- ☑ **Syn.** tranquil, serene
- * **Ant.** turbulent, temperamental
- ☒ Looking at Aparna's placid expression, no one could tell that she was inwardly seething with rage.

PLAGIARISM N. , PLAGIARISE V.

copying the work of someone else, theft; steal another's ideas)

- ☑ **Syn.** copying, lifting, bootlegging
- ☒ The editor has the experience and the skill to know whether a work is plagiarism or original.

PLAINTIFF

injured person in a lawsuit

- * **Ant.** defendant
- ☒ The lawyer asked the plaintiff to rise and show the court his injuries.

PLAINTIVE Adj.

sad, gloomy, melancholy, dismal, doleful

- ☑ **Syn.** mournful, sad, nostalgic
- ☒ The plaintive notes of violin are pervading the atmosphere.

PLATITUDE N.

cliche, banality, commonplace phrases, an old and stale comment lacking originality or freshness, trite remark

- ☑ **Syn.** cliché, inanity, banality
- ☒ We'll get the usual politicians who'll mouth the usual platitudes about 'the glories of democracy.'

PLATONIC Adj.

non-sexual love between a man and a woman

- ☑ **Syn.** spiritual, friendly, nonphysical
- ☒ Platonic relationships are rare in today's materialistic world.

PLAUDIT N.

enthusiastic approval; round of applause

- ☒ The movie generated great reviews and earned plaudits from the classes and the masses alike.

PLEBEIAN Adj.

common, pertaining to the common people, concerning the common folk or masses (often used in a derogatory way)

- ☑ **Syn.** blue collar, working class
- * **Ant.** aristocratic, noble
- ☒ Politicians make speeches calculated to appeal to plebeian minds.

PLETHORA N.

excess, overabundance, a vast amount, great excess

- ☑ **Syn.** overabundance, excess, surfeit
- * **Ant.** shortage, lack, deficiency
- ☒ Our library boasts of a plethora of books on modern and ancient literature.

PLIANT Adj.

flexible, easily influenced

- ☑ **Syn.** pliable, flexible
- * **Ant.** stiff, rigid, taut
- ☒ It is not healthy to force children to be too pliant.

PLIGHT N.

condition, state, predicament

- Syn.** difficulty, trouble, extremity
- ☒ The article highlighted the plight of child labourers in the country.

PLUCK N.

courage

- ☑ **Syn.** nerve, guts, resolve
- * **Ant.** cowardice, fearfulness
- ☒ I was amazed at the pluck of the frail woman fighting to get justice from the law.

PLUMMET V.

to fall sharply, to erode soon

- ☑ **Syn.** plunge, drop, dive
- ☒ A recently published report suggests that the levels of literacy have plummeted across the nation.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. perfunctory | a. deadly |
| 2. perjury | b. love for mankind |
| 3. pernicious | c. relevant |
| 4. pertinent | d. lying under oath |
| 5. philanthropy | e. unenthusiastic |

1.(e) 2.(d) 3.(a) 4.(c) 5.(b)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

PLURALISTIC

including a variety of groups

- ☒ The United States is a pluralistic society, incorporating a wide range of groups.

PLUTOCRACY N. , PLUTOCRATS N.

government by the very rich; barons, industrialists

- ☒ The first few self-governments under British-rule were plutocracies.

PLY

to use diligently, to operate, to join together

- ☑ **Syn.** manipulate, operate
- ☒ The weaver plied the fibres and made a blanket as if by magic.

PNEUMATIC

relating to air, worked by compressed air

- ☒ The rebel launched a missile with the help of a pneumatic gun.

PODIUM

platform or lectern for orchestra conductors or speakers

- ☒ The audience could see Tara shaking as she walked up to the podium.

POIGNANT Adj. POIGNANCY N.

very moving, sad, heartbreaking, sentimental, maudlin, profoundly affecting feelings, highly emotional in effect, piercing

- ☑ **Syn.** moving, emotional, distressing
- * **Ant.** unemotional, pokerfaced
- ☒ Nirmal Verma's novels are poignant in theme and complex in style.

POLAR

relating to a geographic pole, exhibiting contrast

- ☑ **Syn.** frozen, conflicting
- * **Ant.** molten, analogous
- ☒ Though Sean and Angelina are polar in temperament, they have been happily married for nine years.

POLARISE

to tend towards opposite extremes

- ☑ **Syn.** antagonise, collide
- * **Ant.** accord, concord
- ☒ The leaders feared the conflict would polarise the group into two separate camps.

POLEMICAL Adj. , POLEMIC N.

controversial; controversy, argument in support of point of view

- ☒ Throughout her regime Mrs Gandhi remained a polemical leader.
- ☒ Her polemical essays are rather naïve and simplistic.

POLITIC

discreet, tactful

- ☑ **Syn.** diplomatic, sagacious
- * **Ant.** unwise, injudicious
- ☒ Her prompt and politic management of the crisis led to her re-election the following year.

POLYGLOT

speaker of many languages

- ☑ **Syn.** linguist, multilingual person
- ☒ Vandana's extensive travels have helped her to become a true polyglot.

PONDER N. , PONDEROUS Adj.

to think deeply; heavy

- ☑ **Syn.** consider, think about, mull over
- ☒ He sat back in his chair to ponder his next move in the chess game.

PONTIFICATE V. , PONTIFICAL Adj.

to speak or write in a pompous way; pertaining to a bishop or Pope, pompous or pretentious

- ☑ **Syn.** be dogmatic, preach
- ☒ Grandfather will pontificate on any subject if you let him.

POROUS

full of holes, permeable to liquids

- ☑ **Syn.** penetrable, absorbent
- * **Ant.** impenetrable, impervious
- ☒ Unfortunately, the tent was more porous than we thought and the rain soaked us to the bone.

PORTENT N. , PORTEND V.

a warning that something unpleasant is going to happen

- ☑ **Syn.** omen, sign, presage
- ☒ The report reveals some worrying economic portents for the coming year.

PORTLY Adj.

stout; corpulent

- ☑ **Syn.** plump, paunchy, pot-bellied
- * **Ant.** slim, thin
- ☒ He was easy to spot, a portly figure in a tight-fitting jacket and bow tie.

POSTERIOR

bottom, rear

- ☑ **Syn.** hind, rear end
- * **Ant.** front, anterior
- ☒ The veterinarian injected the antibiotics into the posterior of the animal.

POSTERITY N.

generations which will follow, offsprings, descendants

- ☒ Every attempt is being made to ensure that these works of art are preserved for posterity.

POSTHUMOUS Adj.

after death, occurring after death (as posthumously published manuscripts)

- ☒ Emily Dickinson, the American metaphysical poetess, got recognition posthumously.

POTABLE

drinkable

- ☒ Though the water was potable, it tasted terrible.

POTENTATE

monarch or ruler with great power

- ☑ **Syn.** emperor, overlord
- ☒ Alex was a much kinder person before he assumed the role of potentate and it went to his head.

POTPOURRI N.

general mixture of bits and pieces

- ☑ **Syn.** hodgepodge, assortment
- ☒ India is famous in the world for its potpourri of cultures, races and religions.

POUND V.

to hit hard, to run heavily

- ☑ **Syn.** hit, strike, beat, hammer
- ☒ My heart was pounding as I opened the letter from the IIM.

PRAGMATIC Adj. , PRAGMATIST N.

dealing with facts, not theory; practical, useful, down-to-earth; sometimes excluding artistic or intellectual endeavours

- ☑ **Syn.** practical, realistic, sensible
- * **Ant.** idealistic, optimistic, romantic
- ☒ Deng's pragmatic approach towards the economy turned China into a super power in just over two decades.

PRATTLE V.

to talk in a childish manner

- ☑ **Syn.** chatter, blather, natter
- ☒ Many radio listeners are bored with DJs who prattle on instead of playing music.

PRECARIOUS Adj.

likely to fall, uncertain, subject to chance or circumstances beyond control, risky or hazardous

- ☑ **Syn.** shaky, unstable, insecure, unsafe
- * **Ant.** stable, steady, firm
- ☒ The precarious foreign exchange situation improved slowly under the new government.

PRECEDENT N. Adj.

something preceding in time that may be used as an authority or guide for future action, something occurring before they may serve as a model for subsequent, similar acts, antecedent

- ☑ **Syn.** standard, instance, example
- ☒ Sadly there are precedents of accidents happening at railway crossings.

PRECIPICE N.

cliff; dangerous situation

Syn. rock face

- ☒ Stallone found himself dangling precariously from a precipice.

PRECIPITOUS Adj.

very steep, spectacular, meteoric, impulsive

- ☑ **Syn.** steep, sheer, abrupt
- * **Ant.** gentle, mild, calm, cool
- ☒ We slowly made our way down the precipitous mountain path.

PRECIPITATE V.

to make something happen suddenly

- ☒ An invasion would certainly precipitate a political crisis.

PRECISION

state of being precise

- ☑ **Syn.** exactitude, accuracy
- * **Ant.** vagueness, bluntness
- ☒ The watchmaker assembled the tiny parts with remarkable precision and speed.

PRECLUDE V.

to prevent something from happening, prevent, inhibit, to make impossible or ineffectual by planning or acting in advance, to forestall, hinder, avert, prevent

- ☑ **Syn.** prevent, stop, rule out, bar
- * **Ant.** permit, allow, authorise
- ☒ Hoping to preclude any chance of failure in the competition, Durga practised over and over again.

PRECOCIOUS N. Adj.

a child extremely advanced for its age, having unusual early mental development; talented, gifted

- ☑ **Syn.** intelligent, bright, gifted
- * **Ant.** slow, sluggish, leisurely
- ☒ The precocious child could speak three languages by the time he was eight years old.

PRECURSOR N.

a person or thing which goes in advance, ancestor, predecessor, forerunner

- ☑ **Syn.** pioneer
- * **Ant.** successor, heir, descendent
- ☒ Selection for Ranji Trophy games is usually a precursor to selection for the national team, but there have been exceptions.

PREDATOR N. , PREDATORY Adj.

animal which lives by eating other animals; plundering, preying

- ☑ **Syn.** marauder, killer
- ☒ The antelopes are on their guard against lions and other predators.

PREDICAMENT N.

a difficult situation, troubles, crisis, dilemma

- ☑ **Syn.** mess, jam, pickle, fix
- ☒ With no money, no job and nowhere to live, he found himself in a real predicament.

PREDILECTION N.

partiality, preference, positive feelings or opinion held beforehand, natural preference, prejudice

- ☑ **Syn.** fondness, liking, preference
- * **Ant.** dislike, hate, abhor
- ☒ Ever since she was a child, she has had a predilection for spicy food.

PREDISPOSITION

tendency, inclination

- ☑ **Syn.** susceptibility, proneness
- * **Ant.** immunity, aversion
- ☒ I have a predisposition to be suspicious of used car salesmen, even though some of them may be honest.

PRE-EMPT V. , PRE-EMPTION N. ,

to get an advantage by doing something before anyone else

- ☑ **Syn.** forestall, anticipate, block
- ☒ The accused filed for anticipatory bail in an effort to pre-empt his imminent arrest.

PREEN V.

Make oneself tidy in appearance; feel self-satisfaction

- ☑ **Syn.** tidy, smooth, arrange
- ☒ She preened herself before the mirror before leaving for the party.

PREMEDITATE

to consider, plan beforehand

- ☑ **Syn.** cogitate, deliberate
- * **Ant.** falter, vacillate
- ☒ The district attorney had to prove that the murder was premeditated for the jury to consider the maximum penalty.

PREMONITION N. , PREMONITORY Adj.

feeling that something unpleasant is going to happen; serving to warn

- ☑ **Syn.** feeling, intuition, hunch
- ☒ He stopped swimming because his friend had a premonition that he might drown.

PREPONDERANCE N.

superiority of power, quantity etc.

- ☒ The preponderance of the English speaking middle class is one of the biggest factors in the emergence of the BPO sector in India.

PREPOSTEROUS Adj.

silly, absurd, fantastic, bizarre

- ☑ **Syn.** ridiculous, absurd, silly
- * **Ant.** sensible, sane, rational
- ☒ The themes of Hindi films are often preposterous.

PREROGATIVE N.

privilege belonging to one person or a group, special rights

- ☑ **Syn.** privilege, right, due, choice
- ☒ Defence and foreign policy will remain the prerogative of the centre, while the new states will control their own economies and resources.

PRESAGE

to foretell, indicate in advance

- ☑ **Syn.** prophesy, portend
- ☒ The demolition of the Berlin Wall presaged the fall of the Soviet Union.

PRESENTIMENT

premonition, sense of foreboding

- ☑ **Syn.** intuition, inkling
- ☒ I had a presentiment of doom when I saw the manager heading towards us with an angry look on his face.

PRESCIENT Adj. , PRESCIENCE N.

person who can tell about future; ability to foretell the future

- ☑ **Syn.** prophetic, psychic, clairvoyant
- ☒ Their prescient comments about the dangers of lead were made some six years before research showed that lead in drinking water harmed children.

PRESUMPTUOUS Adj.

rude and bold, arrogant, impudent, presuming or assuming too much in an overbearing way, overweening, overstepping.

- ☑ **Syn.** swoop, jump, jump out
- ☒ It is never presumptuous to demand what is rightfully yours.

PRETEXT N.

excuse

- ☑ **Syn.** alleged reason, cause, ploy, ruse
- ☒ He has a plethora of pretexts not to start the project at all.

PREVARICATE V.

to try not to tell the truth, to stray from the truth, to lie or equivocate

- ☑ **Syn.** hedge, evade, quibble, dither
- ☒ It was obvious that the witness was trying to prevaricate.

PRIM Adj.

very precise and formal

- ☒ She is always very prim and proper in her attire and appears composed all the time.

PRIMORDIAL Adj.

existing at the beginning (of time), rudimentary

- ☑ **Syn.** primeval, primal, elemental
- ☒ The trip took us through ancient, primordial rain forests.

PRISTINE Adj.

fresh, unspoilt, new or almost new

- ☑ **Syn.** immaculate, perfect, pure
- * **Ant.** soiled, dirty, mucky
- ☒ They moved into a pristine house which was totally furnished.

PRIVATION N.

hardship, want

- ☑ **Syn.** adversity, poverty, neediness
- ☒ Several villages suffered serious privations during the long spell of rainless months.

PROBITY N.

uprightness, incorruptibility, sticking to noble ideas

- ☑ **Syn.** goodness, decency, honesty
- * **Ant.** wickedness, evil, sin
- ☒ Probity in the public life of a person contributes to making him a charismatic leader.

PROCLIVITY N.

inclination, natural tendency, inherent leaning towards something objectionable

- ☑ **Syn.** liking, appetite, taste, penchant
- ☒ His proclivity for alcohol was almost as well-known as his poetry.

PROCRASTINATE V.

to postpone, put off, to delay until another time

- ☑ **Syn.** delay, postpone, adjourn
- ☒ Procrastination leads to mismanagement.

PROCURE

to obtain

- ☑ **Syn.** acquire, secure
- * **Ant.** bequeath, dispose of
- ☒ I was able to procure tickets to the premiere of the new Star Wars movie.

PRODIGAL Adj.

plentiful, extravagant, cornucopian

- ☑ **Syn.** wasteful, reckless, dissolute
- * **Ant.** cautious, careful, alert
- ☒ There have been rumours that he was prodigal with company funds.

PRODIGIOUS Adj.

marvellous; enormous

- ☒ We marvelled at the prodigious arches of the cathedral building.

PRODIGY N. , PRODIGIOUS Adj.

genius, wizard; inspiring awe, extremely large, enormous, monstrous

- ☑ **Syn.** genius, sensation, phenomenon
- ☒ Most child prodigies go on to become maestros in their chosen field.

PROFANE Adj.

obscene, crude, lewd, blasphemous

- ☑ **Syn.** irreverent, wicked, sacrilegious
- * **Ant.** pious, devout, virtuous, moral
- ☒ Profane literature is causing undue damage to young minds.

PROFICIENT

expert, skilled in a certain subject

- ☑ **Syn.** accomplished, dexterous
- * **Ant.** inept, incompetent
- ☒ The mechanic was proficient at repairing vintage cars.

PROFLIGACY N. , PROFLIGATE Adj.

extravagance, wild spending; dissipated, wasteful, licentious

- ☑ **Syn.** dissolution, decadence
- * **Ant.** parsimony, frugality, prudence
- ☒ Fiscal profligacy of the government leads to huge deficits.

PROFOUND Adj.

very serious, very deep, esoteric, severe

- ☑ **Syn.** deep, thoughtful, reflective
- * **Ant.** superficial, surface, shallow
- ☒ The most profound influence on a child is that of its parents and teachers.

PROFUSE Adj. PROFUSION N.

abundant, excessive, plentiful, extravagant; lavish expenditure, overabundant condition

- ☑ **Syn.** plentiful, copious, prolific
- * **Ant.** scanty, insufficient, very little
- ☒ In our wedding receptions, food and drinks are served in profusion.
- ☒ The company accepted blame and sent us profuse apologies.

PROGENY N.

offspring, scion, descendant, child

- ☑ **Syn.** children, young, descendants
- ☒ Pandit Nehru's progeny could not match his charisma.

PROGRESSIVE

favouring progress or change, moving forward, going step-by-step

- ☑ **Syn.** accelerating, enterprising
- * **Ant.** conservative, reactionary
- ☒ The progressive party pushed for reforms, while the conservatives tried to maintain status quo.

PROLETARIAT N. , PROLETARIAN N.

the working class, common people, peasant class; member of the working class

- ☑ **Syn.** grassroots, workers, plebs
- * **Ant.** aristocracy, landed gentry
- ☒ Communism basically purported governance by the proletarians.

PROLIFERATE V. , PROLIFERATION N.

grow rapidly, spread, multiply

- ☑ **Syn.** reproduce, propagate, multiply
- ☒ Seedy projects for making easy money have been proliferating in our country.

PROLIFIC Adj.

fertile, creative, voluminous, multifarious, extremely fruitful or productive, fecund

- ☑ **Syn.** productive, creative, fruitful
- ☒ Sidney Sheldon is a prolific writer who manages to give best sellers with his each new book.

PROLIXITY N. PROLIX Adj.

tedious wordiness; verbosity

- Syn.** circumlocution, wordiness
- Ant.** succinct; terse
- ☒ He found the book too prolix and boring.

PROLOGUE

introductory section of a literary work or play

- ☑ **Syn.** foreword, preface
- * **Ant.** epilogue, postscript
- ☒ The novel's prologue introduces the narrator of the story.

PROMISCUOUS Adj.

lecherous, wanton, indiscriminate, immoral, mixed

- ☑ **Syn.** immoral, loose, licentious
- ☒ The sixties are synonymous with promiscuous sex and free living.

PROMULGATE V.

to make a law known to the public, announce, proclaim

- ☑ **Syn.** broadcast, propagate, spread
- ☒ Aurangzeb promulgated Zazia.

PROPENSITY N.

fondness, inclination, disposition, distinct and sometimes strong natural tendency or inclination, leaning

- ☑ **Syn.** partiality
- ☒ She's inherited from her father a propensity to talk too much.

PROPHECY V. **PROPHETIC** Adj.

to foretell what will happen in the future, predict, anticipate; having to do with predicting the future

- ☑ **Syn.** predict, forecast, envisage
- ☒ The minister suggested that the dire prophecies of certain leading environmentalists were somewhat exaggerated.

PROPHYLACTIC Adj.

used to prevent disease

- ☒ Despite all the prophylactic measures by the doctor, she succumbed to her injuries.

PROPINQUITY N.

nearness; kinship

- ☒ Their propinquity during college days blossomed into a lifelong friendship.

PROFITIOUS Adj.

favourable, auspicious

- ☑ **Syn.** promising
- ☒ With the economy in the worst recession for 30 years, it was scarcely the most propitious time to start up a company.

PROSAIC Adj.

commonplace, dull, pedestrian, of facts, not imaginative or original, ordinary, banal

- ☑ **Syn.** mundane, colourless, ordinary
- * **Ant.** inspiring, stirring, exciting
- ☒ Most of our magazines are full of prosaic writings.

PROSCRIBE V. , **PROSCRIPTION** N.

to forbid by law, prohibit, outlaw

- ☑ **Syn.** ban, bar, forbid, disallow
- * **Ant.** permit, allow, make available
- ☒ Consuming alcohol is proscribed in Gujarat.

PROSELYTISE V.

Induce someone to convert to a religion or belief.

- ☒ It is wrong for people to proselytise in the guise of charity work.

PROSECUTE V.

to bring to court to answer a charge

- ☑ **Syn.** put on trial, act against, impeach
- ☒ They will prosecute him for laxity in duty.

PROSECUTOR

person who initiates a legal action or suit

- ☑ **Syn.** attorney, legal agent
- ☒ The prosecutor's aggressive questioning left the defendant flustered.

PROSTRATE

lying face downward, flat, sapped

- ☑ **Syn.** fatigued, spread-eagled
- * **Ant.** fresh, upright
- ☒ After taking a tumble down the stairs, Millie was found prostrate on the floor of the basement.

PROTAGONIST

main character in a play or story, champion

- ☑ **Syn.** hero, lead, star
- * **Ant.** minor character, opponent
- ☒ In dramatic tragedy, the protagonist often brings about his own downfall.

PROTEAN Adj.

versatile, able to take on many forms

- ☑ **Syn.** variable, changeable, mutable
- ☒ He was so protean as an artist that the critics could never categorise his work.

PROTEGE (*PROTEEJEE*) N.

person who is supported in work with money or advice by someone else

- ☑ **Syn.** responsibility, dependent
- ☒ Sam Pitroda was a Rajiv protege.

PROTOCOL

ceremony and manners observed by diplomats

- ☑ **Syn.** etiquette, convention
- ☒ Diplomats must strive to observe the correct protocol in their dealings with foreign heads of state.

PROTRUSION

something that sticks out

- ☑ **Syn.** lump, outgrowth
- ☒ The carpenter noticed a protrusion on the surface of the wood and sanded it down till it disappeared.

PROVIDENCE N., PROVIDENT Adj., PROVIDENTIAL Adj.

fate, destiny; displaying foresight, thrifty, prepared for emergencies, providing for times ahead; saving, prudent, frugal

- ☑ **Syn.** fate, chance, luck, destiny
- ☒ Providence did not give Rajiv a second chance at premiership.
- ☒ A provident man that he was, he had arranged everything for his family in the eventuality of his death.

PROVINCIAL

rustic, limited in scope

- ☑ **Syn.** unsophisticated, parochial
- * **Ant.** metropolitan, cosmopolitan
- ☒ Anita, a sophisticated city girl, sneered at the provincial attitudes of her country cousins.

PROVOCATION

cause, incitement to act or respond

- ☑ **Syn.** goading, stimulus
- * **Ant.** suppression, curbing
- ☒ Snakes seldom attack without provocation.

PROWESS N.

talent, skill, efficiency, adroitness, brains

- ☑ **Syn.** incite, aggravate, goad, needle
- ☒ Bradman's batting prowess is legendary.

PROXIMITY N.

nearness

- ☑ **Syn.** nearby, close, adjacent
- * **Ant.** distant, remote, isolated
- ☒ Too much of proximity can lead to apathy even between couples.

PROXY

power to act as a substitute for another

- ☑ **Syn.** deputy, delegate
- ☒ The senile woman's niece produced a document that identified her as her aunt's proxy for all legal matters.

PRUDENCE N. , PRUDET N.

foresight, vigilance

- ☑ **Syn.** care, caution, discretion
- * **Ant.** recklessness, wildness, haste
- ☒ The firm was commended for its financial prudence.

PRUDENT

careful, cautious

- ☑ **Syn.** wary, far-sighted
- * **Ant.** incautious, imprudent
- ☒ Considering the small size of our army, it would not be prudent for us to attack right now.

PRUDISH Adj. PRUDE N.

strict, puritanical, narrow minded; excessively modest or proper person

- ☑ **Syn.** prim, stuffy, pedantic
- ☑ **Syn.** relaxed, tranquil, calm, cool
- ☒ Prudes cannot appreciate avant garde films, art, literature etc.

PRURIENT Adj.

vulgar, obscene, lewd, raunchy

- ☒ Prurient songs and other noises cause immeasurable harm to our psyche.

PRY V.

inquire impertinently; use leverage to raise or open something.

- ☑ **Syn.** scrutinise, probe, snoop around
- ☒ It's not correct to pry into other people's lives.

PSEUDONYM N.

false or invented name, nom-de-plume, a pen name, any assumed name

- ☑ **Syn.** alias, false name, stage name
- ☒ Saki was the pseudonym of H.H.Munro.

PSYCHE N.

soul, mind

- ☑ **Syn.** consciousness, awareness, mind
- ☒ Charisma also comes from knowing the psyche of the people or the masses well.

PSYCHIC

perceptive of non-material, spiritual forces

- ☑ **Syn.** paranormal, supernatural
- * **Ant.** natural, normal
- ☒ Many gullible persons have been robbed of their savings by people claiming to have psychic powers.

PUGNACIOUS Adj. PUGNACITY N.

quarrelsome, belligerent, bellicose, contentious, warlike, spoiling for a fight, combative, truculent

- ☑ **Syn.** aggressive, belligerent
- * **Ant.** serene, harmonious, calm
- ☒ Sameer was a pugnacious guy, always spoiling for a fight.

PUISSANT Adj.

powerful, strong, potent

- ☒ Being a puissant man, he expected everyone to be in awe of him.

PULCHRITUDE N.

beauty; comeliness

- ☒ Her pulchritude was purely the product of his passion.

PULMONARY Adj.

referring to the lungs

- ☒ Pulmonary veins carry oxygenated blood from the lungs to the heart.

PULVERISE

to pound, crush, or grind into powder; destroy

- ☑ **Syn.** mash, demolish
- * **Ant.** crystallise, construct
- ☒ The polar bear has such powerful paws that one blow can pulverise a man.

PUNCTILIOUS Adj.

meticulous, conscientious, painstaking, exacting, carping, precise about observing customs and rules, conventional, scrupulously exact

- ☑ **Syn.** scrupulous, thorough
- * **Ant.** sloppy, slack, shoddy
- ☒ The mistake was spotted immediately by their punctilious lawyer.

PUNDIT N.

learned Hindu, any learned person, authority on a subject.

- ☑ **Syn.** expert, specialist, analyst
- ☒ He is the new pundit in marketing.

PUNGENT

strong or sharp in smell or taste

- ☑ **Syn.** pervasive, nauseating
- * **Ant.** bland, mild
- ☒ The smoke from the burning tyres was extremely pungent.

PUNITIVE Adj.

punishing

- ☑ **Syn.** penal, disciplinary, corrective, severe, stringent
- ☒ The judge ordered \$4 million in punitive damages against the convict.

PURGATION

catharsis, purification

- ☑ **Syn.** absolution, atonement
- * **Ant.** contamination, defilement
- ☒ Some religions make converts undergo ritual purgation before accepting them as members of the faith.

PURGE N. V.

laxative, an elimination; eradicate, eliminate, clean; rid oneself of something unwanted; to free or eliminate

- ☑ **Syn.** wash out, cleanse, remove
- ☒ We need to purge the society of racism.

PURPORT V. N. **PURPORTED** Adj.

to mean, express, indicate, hint, imply, to appear to be something, to profess, intend; meaning that is open or suggested; substance, gist, import

- ☑ **Syn.** claim, assert, allege
- ☒ I didn't read it all but I think the purport of the letter was that he will not be returning for at least a year.

PURVEYOR N.

furnisher of foodstuffs, caterer

- ☑ **Syn.** supplier, seller, vendor, outlet
- ☒ He has been in contract as a purveyor of wine and food in the club.

PUSILLANIMOUS Adj.

timid, afraid, petty, cowardly, lacking forcefulness

- ☑ **Syn.** timid, cowardly, fearful, nervous
- * **Ant.** brave, courageous, bold, daring
- ☒ He's too pusillanimous to stand up to his opponents.

PUTRID Adj.

dirty, rotten, vicious, disgusting, foul

- ☑ **Syn.** rotten, rotting, rancid
- * **Ant.** fresh, clean, new, bright
- ☒ We came across the putrid body of a dead fox while we were walking in the woods.

PYRE N.

ceremonial fire

- ☒ A traditional Indian custom used to involve a widow burning herself alive on her husband's funeral pyre.

PYROMANIAC N.

An obsessive desire to set things on fire

- ☑ **Syn.** arsonist, incendiary, firebomber
- ☒ The police is looking for the pyromaniac responsible for the series of catastrophic fires in the area.

PYRRHIC VICTORY N.

a victory which costs the victor too much efforts

- ☒ Ashoka's pyrrhic victory over Kalinga led to his spiritual transformation.

Government

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

COUP	:	a sudden, violent and illegal seizure of power from a government.
INSURGENCY	:	a minor revolt against a local government; uprising
JUNTA	:	a small group, usually composed of military officers, ruling a country in the absence of a civilian government
MORATORIUM	:	an officially declared stoppage
OMBUDSMAN	:	an intermediary between a citizen and the government who investigates complaints by citizens about government agencies or officials
POTENTATE	:	a monarch, dictator, or similar person possessing great political power
REGALIA	:	emblems and trappings of a political or military office
SECEDE	:	to separate from an organized body of government
THRALLDOM	:	slavery; serfdom
USURP	:	to assume political power or office by force or without right

“Q”

QUACK N.

sound made by a duck; an unqualified doctor

- ☑ **Syn.** fraud, charlatan, cheat, hypocrite
- ☒ Do not take his advice seriously – he’s a quack.

QUAFF V.

drink with relish

- ☑ **Syn.** drink, swill, imbibe, guzzle
- ☒ He’s always quaffing these strange herbal medicines, which he thinks will make him healthier.

QUADRUPED

animal having four feet

- ☒ After injuring my back, I could only manage to move around like a quadruped.

QUAGMIRE N.

soft boggy area of land that gives way underfoot; an awkward, complex or hazardous situation

- ☑ **Syn.** swamp, morass, mess, predicament, plight
- ☒ After the killing of the gangster’s son the whole village has sunk into a quagmire of violence and arson.

QUAIL V.

cower; lose heart

- ☒ The brave do not quail in the face of danger.

QUAINT Adj.

oddly, odd fashioned, picturesque

- ☑ **Syn.** old world, charming
- ☒ They may be a little quaint and conservative but I found them quite adorable.

QUALIFIED Adj.

limited, restricted

- ☑ **Syn.** fit, capable, competent, skilled
- ☒ An MBA does not mean that you are automatically qualified for the managing director’s job.

QUALM N.

a feeling of guilt or worry, compunction

- ☑ **Syn.** misgiving, doubt, bad feeling
- ☒ Most parents have occasional qualms about whether they’re doing the best thing for their children.

QUANDARY N.

dilemma, enigma, predicament, puzzle

- ☑ **Syn.** fix, jam, difficulty
- ☒ Govt. is in a quandary over the exit policy issue.

QUARANTINE N.

period of time when someone has to be kept in isolation to prevent spreading an infectious disease; enforced isolation

- ☑ **Syn.** seclusion, exile
- ☒ The horse had to spend several months in quarantine when it reached Britain.

QUARRY N., V.

place where stones are dug out of ground; prey, game; to mine, to dig

- ☑ **Syn.** pit, excavation
- ☒ The pack of wild dogs pursued their quarry for several miles, and went in for the kill when it was exhausted.

QUASH V.

subdue, crush, squash

- ☑ **Syn.** suppress, repress
- ★ **Ant.** bring about, prompt
- ☒ The military was sent in to quash the rebellion in the city.

QUEASY Adj.

feeling sick, restless, squeamish

- ☑ **Syn.** nauseous, sick, ill
- ☒ The ill-informed and half-educated youth of today beget a queasy feeling in us.

QUELL V. to calm, stifle, annihilate

- ☑ **Syn.** suppress, subdue, crush, quash
- ★ **Ant.** provoke, inflame, rouse, goad
- ☒ The army quelled the rebellion and arrested dozens of participants.

QUERULOUS Adj.

bad-tempered, peevish, complaining

- ☑ **Syn.** argumentative, difficult, irritable
- * **Ant.** friendly, sociable, affable
- ☒ He became increasingly dissatisfied and querulous in his old age.

QUIBBLE N.

arguments about details, dispute

- ☑ **Syn.** equivocate, hedge, nitpick, cavil
- ☒ Quibbles have become the norm in parliament.

QUIETUDE N.

tranquillity

- ☑ **Syn.** tranquillity, calmness, quietness
- * **Ant.** activity, movement, stir, flurry
- ☒ He liked the place because of its quietude.

QUINTESSENCE N.

essence, core, crux, gist, pith, substance

- ☑ **Syn.** embodiment, epitome, soul
- ☒ Mother Teresa was the quintessence of compassion and sacrifice.

QUIP N., V.

taunt, a witty remark

- ☑ **Syn.** jest, pun, repartee
- ☒ Shraddha's quip failed to evoke any laughter from her audience.

QUIRK N.

abnormality, idiosyncrasy

- ☑ **Syn.** peculiarity, trait
- ☒ By the quirk of fate, we ended up on the same train.

QUISLING N.

person who betrays his country or cause

- ☑ **Syn.** collaborator, turncoat, renegade
- ☒ Terrorist organisations have become the breeding ground of quislings.

QUIVER N., V.

container for arrows; slight shake, tremor; to tremble

- ☑ **Syn.** shudder, shiver
- ☒ The opening bars of the music sent a quiver of excitement through the crowd.

QUIXOTIC Adj.

strange, impractical

- ☑ **Syn.** idealistic, unrealistic, romantic
- * **Ant.** practical, realistic, sensible
- ☒ Any plan to reduce poverty in India can easily be termed as quixotic.

QUIZZICAL Adj.

amused

- ☑ **Syn.** questioning, curious, puzzled
- ☒ The quizzical expression on his face is deceptive; he knows exactly what is going on.

QUORUM N.

number of members necessary to conduct a meeting

- ☒ Four members walked out of the session, with the result that the committee did not have a quorum and could not take any decision.

QUOTIDIAN Adj.

daily, commonplace, customary

- ☒ Sensational scoops have become quite quotidian in these days of the camera with a sting.

Health Profession

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

CONGENITAL	:	existing or dating from birth; inbred; inborn; innate
EMETIC	:	any substance used to induce vomiting
FEBRILE	:	feverish
GERIATRIC	:	relating to medical care and treatment of the elderly
HOSPICE	:	a shelter for the sick, dying, or underprivileged (or for travelers)
MORBIDITY	:	the incidence or prevalence of disease (or death)
NATAL	:	pertaining to birth
PLACEBO	:	a pill, medicine, or procedure prescribed more for the psychological benefit to the patient of being given prescription than for any physiological effect
PROSTHESIS	:	an artificial body part.
VENTILATOR	:	an appliance or aperture for artificial respiration

“R”

RACKET N.

illegal profit-making deal, scam, swindle

- ☑ **Syn.** row, noise, din, commotion
- ☒ Surprisingly, a policeman was also involved in the protection racket.

RACONTEUR N.

storyteller

- ☑ **Syn.** narrator, storyteller
- ☒ He knew many jokes and was a brilliant raconteur.

RADICAL

fundamental, drastic

- ☑ **Syn.** exhaustive, rudimentary
- * **Ant.** superficial, conservative
- ☒ Bored with her appearance, Lucy decided to make a radical change and dyed her hair bright purple.

RAGAMUFFIN N.

person wearing tattered clothes

- ☑ **Syn.** urchin, waif
- ☒ One can find scores of ragamuffins begging near the traffic signals.

RAKISH Adj.

stylish, sporty

- ☑ **Syn.** dashing, debonair, jaunty, carefree
- * **Ant.** shabby, dull
- ☒ He was a rakish guy who set fashion trends in the college.

RAMBLE N., V.

wander aimlessly, itinerate, discuss

- ☑ **Syn.** walk, hike, stroll, wander
- ☒ I love to ramble through the fields.

RAMIFICATION N.

consequence, progression, branching out

- ☑ **Syn.** result, implication, corollary
- ☒ The collapse of communism in Russia had global ramifications.

RAMPAGE N.

riot, stampede, storm

- ☑ **Syn.** charge, run riot, storm, go wild
- ☒ The troops went on a rampage through the conquered territory.

RAMPANT Adj. , **RAMPANCY** N.

unrestrained, free, audacious

- ☑ **Syn.** uncontrolled, unbridled, wild
- * **Ant.** controlled, restricted, limited
- ☒ Corruption has become rampant in the country.

RAMSHACKLE Adj.

dilapidated, falling to pieces

- ☑ **Syn.** rickety, tumbledown
- * **Ant.** sturdy, strong, powerful
- ☒ There's a ramshackle old shed at the bottom of the garden.

RANCID Adj.

tasting or smelling bad

- ☑ **Syn.** sour, stale, putrid, fetid
- * **Ant.** fresh, sweet, pleasant
- ☒ A rancid smell pervaded the dockyard.

RANCOUR N.

dislike, bitterness, hate, acrimony, antipathy

- ☑ **Syn.** resentment, bitterness, spite
- * **Ant.** amicability, affability, philanthropic
- ☒ As he denounced the government, we could hear the rancour behind every word.

RANKLE V.

irritate, fester

- ☑ **Syn.** annoy, irk
- ☒ It still rankles that my junior got promoted and I didn't.

RAPACIOUS Adj. , **RAPACITY** N.

greedy, grabbing

- ☑ **Syn.** greedy, voracious, grasping
- ☒ Rapacious soldiers looted the houses in the city.

RAPPORT N.

harmony, intimacy, liaison, association

- ☑ **Syn.** relationship, understanding
- ☒ Maintaining rapport with those in power is crucial for the growth of many an industrial empire.

RAPT

deeply absorbed

- ☑ **Syn.** engrossed, preoccupied
- * **Ant.** uninterested, inattentive
- ☒ Surprisingly, the normally restless infant sat rapt in attention during the classical music performance.

RASH

careless, hasty

- ☑ **Syn.** reckless, impulsive
- * **Ant.** cautious, prudent
- ☒ Rash driving can be injurious to one's own health.

RATIFY V.

approve formally, confirm, verify

- ☑ **Syn.** sanction, endorse, corroborate
- * **Ant.** reject, revoke
- ☒ The countries decided to ratify the Free Trade Agreement within one month.

RATIOCINATION N.

reasoning, act of drawing conclusion from premises

- ☒ Her gift of ratiocination helped her immensely in her research work.

RATIONAL Adj.

open to logical reason or being reasonable; of sane mind

- ☒ **Syn.** lucid, balanced, sane, normal
- * **Ant.** illogical, unreasonable, foolish
- ☒ We need to decide what would be the most rational course of action.

RAUCOUS Adj.

noisy, blatant, rough, harsh

- ☒ **Syn.** rough, harsh, strident, hoarse
- * **Ant.** soft, yielding, spongy
- ☒ I think their music is rather raucous.

RAVAGE V.

to plunder, devastate, maraud

- ☒ **Syn.** devastate, destroy, desolate
- ☒ Chechnya is a province ravaged by war.

RAVE N.

overwhelmingly favourable review; praise enthusiastically; talk in a noisy or excited manner

- ☒ **Syn.** talk wildly, rant, ramble
- ☒ The critics gave a rave review of the movie and were all praise for the director.

RAVENOUS Adj.

very hungry, voracious, covetous

- ☒ **Syn.** famished, starving, starved
- * **Ant.** full, filled, occupied
- ☒ Growing children have ravenous appetites.

RAVINE

deep, narrow gorge

- ☒ **Syn.** canyon, gully
- ☒ Police officers scoured the crime scene for days and finally found the murder weapon in a ravine.

RAZE V.

destroy completely

- ☒ **Syn.** demolish, annihilate, level, wreck
- * **Ant.** construct, put up, erect, make
- ☒ The land mafia wants to raze the ancient structure so that it can grab the land.

REACTIONARY Adj.

recoiling from progress; retrograde

- ☒ **Syn.** diehard, conservative
- * **Ant.** activist, campaigner, protester, objector
- ☒ It is surprising that the urban educated support this party which is so blatantly reactionary.

REBUFF V. N.

snub; beat back

- ☒ **Syn.** rejection, refusal, snub, denial
- * **Ant.** accept, welcome
- ☒ I rebuffed his proposal in the most polite manner.

REBUKE V.

scold, berate, admonish

- ☒ **Syn.** censure, reprimand, reproach
- * **Ant.** praise, admire, commend, extol
- ☒ Her mother rebuked her for frightening her brother.

REBUTTAL N.

refutation, response with contrary evidence

- ☒ **Syn.** disproof, confutation, denial
- * **Ant.** acceptance, receipt, taking
- ☒ She issued a point-by-point rebuttal of the company's accusations.

RECALCITRANT Adj.

stubborn, unmanageable, unruly

- ☒ **Syn.** intractable, refractory, wayward
- * **Ant.** well-behaved, obedient, dutiful
- ☒ Overindulgent parents tend to raise recalcitrant children.

RECAVE V.

to take back, recede, retract, rescind

- ☒ **Syn.** renounce, disavow, deny
- ☒ The witness was forced to recant by the mafia.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. provincial | a. foolishly romantic |
| 2. proximity | b. consequence |
| 3. prudent | c. nearness |
| 4. quixotic | d. narrow in outlook |
| 5. ramification | e. careful |

1.(d) 2.(c) 3.(e) 4.(a) 5.(b)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

RECAPITULATE V.

to repeat the main points of an argument

- ☑ **Syn.** sum up, summarise, run through
- ☒ In any formal meeting, it is necessary to recapitulate the proceedings of the earlier meeting.

RECEPTIVE

open to others' ideas, congenial

- ☑ **Syn.** open-minded, acceptant
- * **Ant.** resistant, unresponsive
- ☒ The software company was quite old but the management was receptive to new ideas.

RECIDIVISM N.

habitual return to crime

- ☒ Unlike men, women are rarely recidivist and tend to reform.

RECLUSE N.

person who leads a solitary life, loner

- ☑ **Syn.** hermit, outsider, ascetic
- ☒ A recluse leads an austere life away from the humdrum.

RECLUSIVE

shut off from the world

- ☑ **Syn.** secluded, isolated
- * **Ant.** gregarious, sociable
- ☒ Anthony's reclusive tendencies led him to leave the city and move into a lonely cabin in the mountain

RECONCILE V.

correct inconsistencies, become friendly after a quarrel

- ☑ **Syn.** settle, square, reunite, resolve
- * **Ant.** estrange, alienate
- ☒ It's nice to see the two friends reconcile after their bitter fight last year.

RECONDITE Adj.

esoteric, obscure, abstruse

- ☑ **Syn.** complex, hidden, concealed
- * **Ant.** mainstream, normal, typical
- ☒ They left the physicist in peace, happily grappling with some recondite formula.

RECONNOITRE V. RECONNAISSANCE N.

to make a survey to get information especially for military operations

- ☒ Their ground forces were able to manoeuvre and reconnoitre without any danger of air attack.

RECOUNT V.

narrate or tell; count over again

- ☑ **Syn.** tell, narrate, relate, report
- ☒ I listened to him recount an anecdote about a woman he'd met on a train.

RECRUIT

enlist, to seek

- ☑ **Syn.** to draft, to enroll
- * **Ant.** dismiss, disband
- ☒ Companies often send representatives to college campuses to recruit bright young employees.

RECRIMINATION N.

countercharges, act of accusing in return

- ☑ **Syn.** accusation, reproach, allegation
- ☒ Divorce proceedings normally witness bitter recriminations from both parties.

RECTITUDE N.

uprightness, integrity

- ☑ **Syn.** morality, goodness
- * **Ant.** wickedness, immorality
- ☒ An austere man of unquestioned moral rectitude, Tushar inspired deep devotion in those who worked for him.

RECTIFY

to correct

- ☑ **Syn.** amend, reform
- * **Ant.** perpetrate, damage
- ☒ Most people would rectify their errors if they are given the opportunity.

RECURRENCE

repetition

- ☑ **Syn.** happen again, happen repeatedly
- ☒ The frequent recurrence of cancer even after it is seemingly cured makes it a particularly terrible disease.

REDOLENT Adj.

fragrant; odorous

- ☑ **Syn.** evocative, suggestive, reminiscent
- ☒ The movie was redolent of the golden era of Indian music.
- ☒ The whole household was redolent with the smell of spices, a sure sign grandma was at work in the kitchen.

REDOUBTABLE Adj.

formidable, causing fear

- ☑ **Syn.** impressive, terrible, fearsome
- ☒ Even at this age, Martina Navratilova is a redoubtable opponent for anyone.

REDRESS N.

remedy, compensation

- ☑ **Syn.** restore, equalise, rectify
- ☒ SEBI is the agency that ensures redressal of investor grievances.

REDUNDANCY

unnecessary repetition

- ☑ **Syn.** superfluity, uselessness
- * **Ant.** usefulness, efficacy
- ☒ The editor suggested deletion of some paragraphs as there was too much redundancy in the article.

REFORM

to change, correct

- ☑ **Syn.** improve, alter
- * **Ant.** preserve, maintain
- ☒ The new mayor struggled to reform the corrupt administration, to keep her promise to the voters.

REFRACTORY Adj.

stubborn, unmanageable; capable of enduring high temperature

- ☑ **Syn.** unruly, intractable, disobedient
- * **Ant.** good, obedient, dutiful
- ☒ He was a spoilt child, quite refractory and rather repulsive in his manners.

REFRAIN V.

abstain from, resist

- ☑ **Syn.** desist, abstain, cease, renounce
- * **Ant.** persist, persevere, continue
- ☒ An audience cannot be refrained from joining in during a chorus rendition.

REFUGE

escape, shelter

- ☑ **Syn.** asylum, sanctuary
- ☒ As the storm broke, the couple took refuge under a tree.

REFULGENT Adj.

brightly shining, gleaming

- ☒ The refulgent orb of the Golden Temple is a heartening sight to every devotee.

REFURBISH V.

rejuvenate, revamp, restore, polish up

- ☑ **Syn.** renovate, smarten up
- ☒ The developers refurbished the house inside and out.

REFUTE V.

disprove

- ☑ **Syn.** contest, rebut, counter
- * **Ant.** prove, show, confirm
- ☒ The barrister used new evidence to refute the charges and clear the defendant.

REGALE V.

entertain, supply lavishly

- ☑ **Syn.** amuse, delight, fascinate
- ☒ The old man regaled us with stories of his youth as we waited for the rain to abate.

REGIMEN N.

prescribed diet and habits

- ☑ **Syn.** routine, schedule, treatment
- ☒ Physical fitness requires a strict regimen.

REGRESS

to move backward, revert to an earlier form or state

- ☑ **Syn.** deteriorate, retrogress
- * **Ant.** progress, improve
- ☒ Elderly people who suffer from senility often regress to the early years of their childhood.

REHABILITATE

to restore to good health or condition, re-establish a person's good reputation

- ☑ **Syn.** restore, reinstate
- ☒ The star wanted to get rid of her drug addiction and checked into a clinic in order to rehabilitate herself.

REITERATE

to say or do again, repeat

- ☑ **Syn.** restate, retell
- ☒ The teacher was forced to reiterate the instructions because some students had come late.

REJOINDER N.

retort, comeback, reply

- ☑ **Syn.** response, answer, reply
- ☒ She always has a witty rejoinder to any question.

REJUVENATE V.

to make someone young again, invigorate

- ☑ **Syn.** revitalise, revive, renew, restore
- ☒ She felt rejuvenated by her fortnight in the Bahamas.

RELEGATE V.

banish to an inferior position, delegate, assign

- ☑ **Syn.** downgrade, exile, demote
- * **Ant.** upgrade, promote
- ☒ He disliked being relegated to doing all the menial jobs around the house.

RELENT V.

give in

- ☑ **Syn.** cave in, concede, surrender
- * **Ant.** stand firm, hold on, hold out
- ☒ Her parents just did not relent when she wanted the liberty to choose her lifemate.

RELIC N.

object which has been left over from the past

- ☑ **Syn.** historical object, artifact, remains
- ☒ The archaeologists wanted to cordon off the site where the relics were found but the villagers were more worried about their farms than some "useless" pieces of pottery.

RELINQUISH V.

resign, surrender, abdicate, quit

- ☑ **Syn.** give up, abandon, resign
- * **Ant.** retain, keep, hold
- ☒ She relinquished responsibility for the family investments to her son.

RELISH V.

savour; enjoy

- Syn.** like, appreciate
- * **Ant.** dislike, detest, abhor
- ☞ I want to relish each and every moment of my holiday.

REMEDIAL

capable of being corrected

- Syn.** curable, treatable
- * **Ant.** irremediable, incurable
- ☞ In the belief that the juvenile thief was remedial and not a hardened criminal, the judge put him on probation.

REMINISCENCE

remembrance of past events

- Syn.** recall, recollection
- * **Ant.** amnesia, forgetfulness
- ☞ The old timer's reminiscence of his childhood was of a time when there were no cars.

REMISS Adj.

negligent

- Syn.** careless, lax, slipshod
- ☞ It was remiss of me to forget to give you the message.

REMIT

to send (usually money) as payment

- Syn.** dispatch, transmit
- ☞ Every month, the sailors had to remit part of their pay to creditors in the village.

REMNANT N.

remainder, residue, vestige

- Syn.** remainder, remains, relic
- ☞ The remnants of the marriage party littered the lawn.

REMONSTRATE V. REMONSTRANCE N.

to protest against something

- Syn.** argue, protest, object
- * **Ant.** concur, consent, correspond
- ☞ We called an agitation to remonstrate against the company's policies.

REMORSE N.

regret, sorrow, penitence, guilt

- Syn.** sorrow, guilt, compunction
- ☞ The criminal did not deny his behaviour and showed no remorse for the pain he had caused.

REMUNERATION

pay or reward for work

- Syn.** emoluments, wages
- ☞ You can't expect people to do this kind of boring work without some form of remuneration.

RENDEZVOUS N.

meeting place, appointment

- Syn.** tryst, assignation, assembly point
- ☞ The lovers met at a secret rendezvous in the park.

RENEGADE Adj.

rebel, dissident, agitator

- Syn.** traitor, rebel, turncoat
- ☞ The political party was weakened by the renegades clamouring for their share of the spoils of power.

RENEGE

to go back on one's word

- Syn.** repudiate, retract
- * **Ant.** keep, honour
- ☞ Hitler reneged on his promise not to attack the Soviet Union when his troops invaded the country during World War II.

RENOUCE V.

resign, quit, relinquish

- Syn.** reject, relinquish, abandon
- * **Ant.** accept, believe, recognise
- ☞ Buddha renounced the world.

RENOWN

fame, widespread acclaim

- Syn.** stardom, eminence
- * **Ant.** anonymity, obscurity
- ☞ Having spent his whole childhood banging on things, Siva grew up to be a great drummer.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. rebuke | a. hard to understand |
| 2. recalcitrant | b. criticize sharply |
| 3. recant | c. publicly deny |
| 4. reclusive | d. stubbornly defiant |
| 5. recondite | e. hermitlike |

1.(b) 2.(d) 3.(c) 4.(e) 5.(a)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

REPARTEE N.

series of witty answers in a conversation

- ☑ **Syn.** banter, jousting, wordplay
- ☒ Oscar Wilde's plays are full of witty repartee.

REPEL

repulse, disgust, offend

- ☑ **Syn.** to rebuff, parry
- * **Ant.** be overwhelmed by, welcome
- ☒ So far, the castle defenders have managed to repel the attackers.

REPERTOIRE N.

talents, acts, catalogue

- ☑ **Syn.** range, list, stock
- ☒ The comedy artist had many funny acts and anecdotes in his repertoire.

REPINE V.

fret, complaint

- ☑ **Syn.** mope, languish, lament
- ☒ She was left all alone when her husband went away but she did not repine and was quite resolved to get on with her life.

REPLICA N.

dummy, duplicate, copy

- ☑ **Syn.** copy, imitation, model
- * **Ant.** unique, innovative, creative
- ☒ The ship is an exact replica of the original *Golden Hind*.

REPREHENSIBLE Adj.

blameworthy, culpable, felonious

- ☑ **Syn.** guilty, in the wrong, to blame
- * **Ant.** innocent, blameless, guiltless
- ☒ Your behaviour is reprehensible and sets a bad example for the youngsters.

REPRIEVE N.

interruption, rest, amnesty

- ☑ **Syn.** official pardon, acquittal
- * **Ant.** charge, punish
- ☒ The holiday brought a long-desired reprieve from work.

REPRIMAND N., V.

severe rebuke, scolding, chide

- ☑ **Syn.** warning, talking to, telling off
- * **Ant.** praise, commend, compliment
- ☒ His boss reprimanded for being late yet again.

REPRISAL N.

retaliation

- ☑ **Syn.** payback, punishment
- ☒ The king marshalled his troops fearing reprisal from the rebels.

REPROACH V.

condemn, berate, admonish, scold

- ☑ **Syn.** criticism, censure, reprimand
- * **Ant.** praise, commend, compliment
- ☒ The students were reproached for not completing their task on time.

REPROBATE N.

person hardened in sin; devoid of decency

- ☑ **Syn.** rogue, profligate, debauchee
- * **Ant.** principled, upright, virtuous
- ☒ Our elections witness many a reprobate vouching for morality.

REPROVE V. REPROOF N.

censure; rebuke

- ☑ **Syn.** criticise, accuse, scold, tell off
- * **Ant.** praise, compliment
- ☒ The teacher gently reproved the boys for not paying attention.

REPUDIATE V.

to reject or refuse to accept, condemn, exile

- ☑ **Syn.** reject, disclaim, renounce, rebut
- * **Ant.** acknowledge, admit, recognise
- ☒ He repudiated the allegation that he had tried to deceive them.

REPUGNANT Adj. REPUGNANCE N.

unpleasant, nasty, loathing

- ☑ **Syn.** disgusting, revolting, repulsive
- * **Ant.** good looking, gorgeous
- ☒ The repugnant acts of the U.S military in Iraq has shocked the world.

REPULSE

sicken, disgust

- ☑ **Syn.** repel, fend off
- * **Ant.** be overpowered by, be overwhelmed by
- ☒ He thinks women can't resist him, when in reality many of them are repulsed by his arrogance.

REQUIRE V.

repay, revenge

- ☑ **Syn.** return, reciprocate, avenge
- ☒ Ram swore to requite the atrocities heaped on his family.

RESCIND V.

cancel, abrogate, annul, quash

- ☑ **Syn.** revoke, abolish
- * **Ant.** assign, consign
- ☒ If you continue to lose library books, we will rescind your right to borrow them.

RESENTMENT N.

indignation; bitterness; displeasure

- ☑ **Syn.** anger, vexation, discontent
- * **Ant.** contentment, happiness
- ☒ He could hardly hide his resentment when his opponent was awarded the trophy.

RESILIENT Adj.

pliable, flexible, alterable

- ☑ **Syn.** elastic, flexible, pliant
- * **Ant.** unbending, inflexible, stiff
- ☒ Only the most resilient of the lot will survive the 16 mile trek along the countryside.

RESOLUTE

determined, with a clear purpose

- ☑ **Syn.** purposive, resolved
- * **Ant.** irresolute, doubtful
- ☒ Louise was resolute; she would get into medical school no matter what.

RESOLVE(n)

determination, firmness of purpose

(v) – to conclude, determine

- ☑ **Syn.** resolution, perseverance
- * **Ant.** indeterminateness, indecision
- ☒ I admire your resolve, but is it really a good idea to go through with the marathon in this bad weather?

RESPIRE N.

delay in punishment, interval of relief; rest

- ☑ **Syn.** interval, break, breather
- ☒ Although neither side was satisfied with the treaty, both sides recognised the need for some respite from two years of conflict.

RESPLENDENT Adj.

very splendid, glowing

- ☑ **Syn.** dazzling, magnificent, glorious
- ☒ The resplendent Moghul architecture is evident in The Taj and other historical buildings.

RESTIVE Adj.

restlessly impatient; obstinately resisting control

- ☑ **Syn.** agitated, anxious, recalcitrant
- * **Ant.** calm, biddable, peaceable
- ☒ The star was very late in his arrival and the crowd was growing increasingly restive.

RESTORATIVE

having the power to renew or revitalise

- ☒ Indu told all her friends about the miraculous restorative powers of herbal tea.

RESTRAINED

controlled, repressed, restricted

- ☑ **Syn.** reticent, discreet
- * **Ant.** immoderate, emotional
- ☒ The formerly wild girl became restrained and serious after a month in the strict boarding school.

RESURGENT Adj. **RESURGE** V.

rising again after a defeat; new increase in interest or activity

- ☒ In his article, he talks of the resurgent fundamentalism in many religious movements.

RESURRECT V. , **RESURRECTION** V.

revive, rebuild, restore

- ☑ **Syn.** bring back to life, restore to life
- * **Ant.** kill, slay, take life
- ☒ Over the past few months, she has been busily trying to resurrect her career in telecom.

RETAIN

to hold, keep possession of

- ☑ **Syn.** keep, engage
- * **Ant.** give up, dismiss
- ☒ Britain had to give up most of its colonies, but it retained control over Hong Kong until very recently.

RETALIATE V.

repay in kind, usually for bad treatment

- ☑ **Syn.** hit back, get even, react
- * **Ant.** believe, recognise, admit
- ☒ The terrorists retaliated by launching a bomb attack.

RETARD

to slow, hold back

- ☑ **Syn.** hinder, delay
- * **Ant.** accelerate, expedite
- ☒ She thought bonsai was a cruel way to retard the normal growth of plants.

RETICENT Adj.

taciturn, uncommunicative

- ☑ **Syn.** secretive, shy, laconic
- * **Ant.** gregarious, talkative, verbose
- ☒ A reticent man would be uncomfortable in the presence of gregarious people.

RETINUE N.

followers, escort

- ☑ **Syn.** entourage, followers, attendants
- ☒ A whole retinue accompanies the film star on all outdoor shoots regardless of the need and the cost.

RETIRING

shy, modest, reserved.

- ☑ **Syn.** diffident, unassuming
- * **Ant.** bold, outgoing
- ☒ A shy and retiring man, he was horrified at the idea of having to speak in public.

RETORT N.

quick, sharp reply

- ☑ **Syn.** reply angrily, rejoin, snap
- ☒ She was ready with a retort every time he chose to chastise her on her conduct.

RETRENCHMENT N. **RETRENCHMENT** V.

reduction, cutback

- ☑ **Syn.** cutback, economising
- ☒ Workers' retrenchment is an emotionally charged issue.

RETRIBUTION N.

well deserved punishment

- ☑ **Syn.** vengeance, revenge, justice
- ☒ The cruel pirates feared nothing, not even divine retribution.

RETRIEVE V. RETRIEVAL N.

recover, find and bring in

- ☑ **Syn.** get back, regain, salvage
- * **Ant.** misplace, mislay, drop
- ☒ Computers are used to store and retrieve information efficiently.

RETROGRADE V., Adj.

go backwards; degenerate

- ☑ **Syn.** retrospective, nostalgic
- * **Ant.** activist, advanced, futuristic
- ☒ Some regard the rampant growth in consumerism to be a retrograde step in the spiritual evolution of man.

RETROSPECT V., RETROSPECTIVE Adj., RETROSPECTION N.

recall, recollect, reminisce

- ☒ In retrospection, the past is always glorious.

REVELRY N.

boisterous merrymaking

- ☑ **Syn.** festivities, celebrations, partying
- ☒ The revelries next door kept me awake all night.

REVERBERATE V.

echo, resonate,

- ☑ **Syn.** ring,
- ☒ The hall reverberated with the applause of the audience.

REVERENT Adj., REVERENCE N. , REVERE V.

respectful; respect

- ☑ **Syn.** deferential, reverential, awed
- * **Ant.** disrespectful, cheeky, mocking
- ☒ There is a thin line between a reverent attitude towards a person and hero worshipping.

REVERIE N.

daydream, musing

- ☑ **Syn.** dream, trance
- ☒ He was shaken out of his reverie by the ground realities of life around.

REVILE V.

slander; vilify

- ☑ **Syn.** insult, abuse, scorn
- * **Ant.** admire, praise, commend
- ☒ His is the nasty habit of reviling anybody.

REVOKE V.

to cancel, abrogate, annul

- ☑ **Syn.** annul, withdraw, retract, repeal
- * **Ant.** maintain, uphold, preserve
- ☒ The authorities have revoked their original decision to develop a public park here.

REVULSION N.

disgust, aversion, repulsion

- ☑ **Syn.** revolt, nausea, horror
- * **Ant.** attraction, magnetism, pull, draw
- ☒ A person suffering from jaundice develops a revulsion for food.

RHAPSODY N.

music, poetry, ecstasy, bliss

- ☑ **Syn.** rapture, enthusiasm
- * **Ant.** gloom, darkness, shade
- ☒ There was much rhapsody in her farewell speech and it left all eyes moist.

RHETORIC N.

art of speaking forcefully and eloquently

- ☑ **Syn.** public speaking, language
- ☒ The art of rhetoric begins with a strong idea and good grammar.

RIBALD Adj.

vulgar, obscene, crude, erotic, wanton

- ☑ **Syn.** coarse, vulgar, bawdy
- * **Ant.** sophisticated, superior
- ☒ The programme's humour was too ribald for the evening's audience.

RIFE Adj.

teeming, swarming, prevalent

- ☑ **Syn.** widespread, common, rampant
- * **Ant.** sparse, thin, spare, light
- ☒ There is every evidence that corruption is rife in the government.

RIFT N.

opening, break

- ☑ **Syn.** crack, gap, hole
- ☒ The marriage caused a rift between the brothers and they didn't speak to each other for ten years.

RIG V.

fix, manipulate

- ☑ **Syn.** distort, falsify
- ☒ The party tried to rig the elections by setting up fake candidates.

RIVETING Adj.

absorbing; engrossing

☑ **Syn.** fascinating, enthralling

* **Ant.** boring, monotonous, dull

☒ He may never win the Pulitzer but his books are very riveting.

ROBUST Adj.

strong, vigorous, sturdy, muscular

☑ **Syn.** healthy, vigorous, hearty

* **Ant.** feeble, frail, puny

☒ Robust health was the old man's greatest asset.

ROCOCO Adj.

ornate, highly decorated

☑ **Syn.** ostentatious, flamboyant

* **Ant.** plain, simple

☒ The living room was furnished in rococo style.

RUE N.

regret or sorrow

☑ **Syn.** be remorseful, lament

☒ You will rue the day you insulted me.

RUMINATE V.

chew over and over (mentally or physically) mull over, ponder

☑ **Syn.** meditate, contemplate, brood

☒ Shekhar wanted to be alone so that he could ruminate over the unexpected turn of events in his life.

RUSE N.

trick; stratagem

☑ **Syn.** ploy, tactic, machination, subterfuge

☒ It was a ruse to trap him into confessing.

Health Profession

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

CONGENITAL	:	existing or dating from birth; inbred; inborn; innate
EMETIC	:	any substance used to induce vomiting
FEBRILE	:	feverish
GERIATRIC	:	relating to medical care and treatment of the elderly
HOSPICE	:	a shelter for the sick, dying, or underprivileged (or for travelers)
MORBIDITY	:	the incidence or prevalence of disease (or death)
NATAL	:	pertaining to birth
PLACEBO	:	a pill, medicine, or procedure prescribed more for the psychological benefit to the patient of being given prescription than for any physiological effect
PROSTHESIS	:	an artificial body part.
VENTILATOR	:	an appliance or aperture for artificial respiration

“S”

SABOTAGE N.

malicious and deliberate destruction

- ☑ **Syn.** damage, disrupt, impair, harm
- ☒ They suspect sabotage to be the cause of accident.

SACRILEGIOUS Adj.

lack of deference, respect or reverence for anything sacred or special

- ☑ **Syn.** blasphemous, heretical, desecrating
- * **Ant.** reverent, deferential
- ☒ The clerics banned the book stating that it was sacrilegious and downright trash.

SACROSANCT Adj.

very sacred, pure, consecrated

- ☑ **Syn.** sacred, revered, holy
- ☒ The head priest refused to allow any change in the ritual, stating that it was too sacrosanct.

SADISM N. **SADISTIC** Adj.

pleasure derived from being cruel; inclined to cruelty

- ☑ **Syn.** aggression, fighting, hostility
- ☒ The sadism of Hitler is history.

SAGACITY N. **SAGACIOUS** Adj.

wisdom and discernment; keen perception, shrewdness

- ☑ **Syn.** shrewdness, wisdom, prudence
- * **Ant.** foolishness, stupidity, idiocy
- ☒ We admired our grandmother's sagacity and often asked for her advice and opinion.

SALACIOUS Adj.

erotic, obscene, lascivious

- ☑ **Syn.** scandalous, spicy, exciting
- ☒ Salacious literature ought to stay out of the reach of youngsters.

SALIENT Adj.

prominent

- ☑ **Syn.** outstanding, relevant, significant
- * **Ant.** minor, slight, small, negligent
- ☒ Our constitution draws on the salient features of the constitutions of many countries.

SALUBRIOUS Adj.

healthy

- ☑ **Syn.** wholesome, respectable, decent
- * **Ant.** unhealthy, unpleasant
- ☒ Taking a walk after your dinner is salubrious.

SALUTARY Adj.

tending to improve, beneficial

- ☑ **Syn.** helpful, useful, valuable
- * **Ant.** unwelcome, irrelevant
- ☒ The community service programmes have a salutary effect on young offenders and help them rejoin the mainstream.

SAMARITAN N.

person who helps someone in trouble; member of the Samaritans

- ☒ As stress levels increase the world needs more and more good Samaritans.

SANCTIMONIOUS Adj.

displaying ostentatious or hypocritical devoutness

- ☑ **Syn.** smug, pious, self-righteous
- ☒ It is nothing but sanctimonious behaviour when the ex-convict pledged honesty.

SANCTUARY

haven, retreat

- ☑ **Syn.** shrine, altar
- ☒ He was given sanctuary in the US Embassy in Beijing.

SANGUINE Adj.

confident, optimistic

- ☑ **Syn.** cheerful, hopeful, positive
- * **Ant.** doubtful, uncertain
- ☒ He's sanguine about getting the work finished on time.

SARCASM N. **Sarcastic** Adj.

scornful remarks; stinging rebuke

- ☑ **Syn.** irony, mockery, derision
- ☒ Sarcasm will never win you friends, only enemies.

SARDONIC Adj.

scornful, cynical, mocking, sarcastic

- ☑ **Syn.** sarcastic, derisive, scathing
- ☒ He wears a permanent sardonic grin that keeps people away.

SARTORIAL Adj.

referring to clothes (especially of men) or tailoring

- ☒ He was renowned for his sartorial elegance.

SATE V.

satisfy to the full; cloy

- ☑ **Syn.** satisfy, fill, quench, slake
- * **Ant.** starve, deprive, dissatisfy
- ☒ The boy slept with a sated look on his face, after its first full meal in days.

SATIATE V. SATIETY N.

surfeit; satisfy fully

- ☑ **Syn.** satisfy, fill, sate, slake
- ☒ I was so hungry that it took three plates of food to satiate me.

SATIRE N. , SATIRICAL Adj.

form of literature in which irony, sarcasm and ridicule are employed to attack vice and folly

- ☑ **Syn.** send up, spoof, lampoon
- ☒ It was a wonderful satire that somehow managed to get past the censors and gave its audience a rare chance to laugh at the dictator.

SAVOURY

agreeable in taste or smell

- ☑ **Syn.** delectable, tangy
- * **Ant.** unappetising, unpalatable
- ☒ The banquet guests consumed the savoury treats with pleasure.

SCAMPER N.

run, gallop, scurry, sprint

- ☑ **Syn.** scuttle, hurry
- ☒ The deer went scampering on sighting a lion.

SCAPEGOAT N.

person who carries the blame for someone else

- ☑ **Syn.** victim, whipping boy
- ☒ The captain became a scapegoat for the team's failure to win the cup that year.

SCATHING Adj.

harsh or severe to an extreme; strongly critical

- ☑ **Syn.** scornful, mocking, derisive
- * **Ant.** complimentary, flattering
- ☒ Mohan wrote a scathing editorial for our school newspaper attacking those who polluted our local waterways.

SCAVENGER N. , SCAVENGE V.

animal which feeds on dead animals; hunt through discarded materials for usable items; search, especially for food

- ☑ **Syn.** hunter, forager, searcher
- ☒ Urchins scavenging for food is a heart-wrenching but common sight in our country.

SCENARIO

plot outline, possible situation

- ☑ **Syn.** framework, course of events
- ☒ Their daily confrontation in the suburban train would make an interesting scenario for a play.

SCEPTIC N.

person doubtful of many things, cynic, detractor, agnostic

- * **Ant.** believer, disciple
- ☒ They tried hard to convince the sceptics of the truth but in vain.

SCEPTICAL

doubtful, questioning

- ☑ **Syn.** denying, not convinced
- * **Ant.** convinced, believing
- ☒ Although her parents tried to tell her that Santa Claus existed, the girl was sceptical.

SCHISM N.

division of a group into sections, a breach

- ☑ **Syn.** split, division, rupture, gulf
- ☒ Some people believe that globalisation has only widened the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

SCHIZOPHRENIA N. ,**SCHIZOPHRENIC Adj.**

mental illness where thoughts, feelings and actions are all disconnected; divided personality

- ☒ Symptoms of schizophrenia can include delusions, hallucinations, thought disorder and strange behaviour and emotions.

SCINTILLATE V.

to shine, sparkle, gleam, glimmer

- ☒ His confidence makes his personality scintillate.

SCION N.

young member of a noble family

- ☑ **Syn.** implant, graft, shoot, bud
- ☒ Jyotiraditya is the scion of the Scindia family.

Mini Revision Test*Match each word in the first column with its meaning in the second column.*

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. scrupulous | a. having nothing to do with religion |
| 2. scrutinize | b. strict |
| 3. secular | c. devote to pleasure |
| 4. sensual | d. accidental good fortune |
| 5. serendipity | e. examine very carefully |

1.(b) 2.(e) 3.(a) 4.(c) 5.(d)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

SCOFF V.

to make fun of in a nasty way

- ☑ **Syn.** mock at, sneer, belittle, deride
- * **Ant.** laud, praise, extol
- ☒ The Prime Minister scoffed at the suggestion that he was about to resign.

SCORCH V.

blacken, blister, burn, char, roast

- ☑ **Syn.** burn, singe, sear, char
- ☒ His feet were scorched by the burning sands.

SCORN N.

feeling of looking down, disrespect, contempt

- ☑ **Syn.** disdain, derision, ridicule
- * **Ant.** admiration, respect, esteem
- ☒ She feels nothing but scorn for people who condemn lying but tell lies themselves.

SCOURGE N.

thing which causes suffering, affliction, plague, bane

- * **Ant.** blessing, bonanza
- ☒ Terrorism looks set to be the scourge of the world for many years to come.

SCRUPLE N. SCRUPULOUS Adj.

reservation, qualm, compunction, pang; conscientious, extremely thorough

- ☑ **Syn.** misgiving, doubt, qualm, regret
- ☒ A scrupulous young woman, she was the most suitable person for the post.
- ☒ He is a man without scruple -- he has no conscience.

SCRUTINY

careful observation

- ☑ **Syn.** investigation, survey
- * **Ant.** glance, cursory look
- ☒ The prehistoric fossils were subjected to a careful scrutiny by the team of scientists.

SECEDE

to withdraw formally from an organisation or a union

- ☑ **Syn.** split with, leave
- * **Ant.** join, resign
- ☒ Eventually Latvia seceded from the USSR.

SECLUDED

isolated and remote

- ☑ **Syn.** lonely, cut off
- * **Ant.** accessible, public
- ☒ The hermit lived in a secluded cottage, far from the other villagers.

SECLUSION N.

isolation, solitude

- ☑ **Syn.** privacy, quiet, shelter
- ☒ The victim's family remained in seclusion yesterday and refused to talk to reporters.

SECTARIAN

narrow-minded, relating to a group or sect

- ☑ **Syn.** partial, one-sided
- * **Ant.** tolerant, broadminded
- ☒ Since the fall of communism, the country's various ethnic groups have plunged into sectarian violence.

SECULAR

not specifically pertaining to religion

- ☑ **Syn.** worldly, profane
- * **Ant.** sacred, religious
- ☒ The new manager was so secular in his outlook that he did not want the column for religion in the application form.

SEDENTARY Adj.

always sitting down, not active

- ☑ **Syn.** inactive, sitting
- * **Ant.** active, lively, energetic
- ☒ My doctor says I should take up some sport because my lifestyle is too sedentary.

SEDITION N.

encouraging people to rebel against the government

- ☑ **Syn.** agitation, treason, subversion
- ☒ The government charged them for sedition and put them in jail.

SEDULOUS Adj.

very careful and persistent, resolute, persevering

- Syn.** assiduous, meticulous, dogmatic
- * **Ant.** careless, sloppy
- ☒ Clearing CAT requires a sedulous effort.

SEMANTICS N.

study of deep meaning of languages

- ☒ Very few universities offer semantics as a subject.

SEMBLANCE N.

appearance, similarity, analogy

- ☑ **Syn.** impression, resemblance, veneer
- ☒ The city has now returned to some semblance of normality after last night's devastation.

SEMINAL Adj.

germinal, related to seed or semen; influencing future developments

- ☑ **Syn.** determining, influential, decisive
- * **Ant.** irrelevant, unimportant
- ☒ He played a seminal role in the formation of this organisation.

SENILE Adj. SENILITY N.

old and mentally weak; feeble-mindedness of old age

- ☒ Some memory loss is normal with aging and not a sign that a person is completely senile.

SENSUAL Adj.

referring to pleasures of the body and not of the mind

- ☑ **Syn.** bodily, physical, corporeal
- * **Ant.** spiritual, mental
- ☒ According to some, too much focus on the sensual has led to the decadence of American society.

SENSUOUS Adj.

which gives pleasure to the senses, hedonistic

- ☑ **Syn.** sumptuous, luxurious, rich
- * **Ant.** ascetic, austere, frugal
- ☒ A sensuous presentation by the troupe.

SENTENTIOUS Adj.

too full of moral sense, terse, concise

- Syn.** moralistic, judgmental, pompous
- ☒ The young have neither the time nor the patience for the sententious.

SENTIENT

aware, conscious, able to perceive

- ☑ **Syn.** responsive, reactive
- * **Ant.** insentient
- ☒ The anaesthetic didn't work and the patient was still sentient when the surgeon made the first cut.

SERENDIPITY N.

pleasure obtained from things got accidentally; luck, coincidence

- ☑ **Syn.** chance, fate, destiny
- * **Ant.** design, plan, intend, mean
- ☒ Finding that parking space right in front of the museum was sheer serendipity.

SERENE Adj. **SERENITY** N.

amiable, calm, pleasant

- ☑ **Syn.** tranquil, calm, peaceful, quiet
- * **Ant.** bustling, busy, active
- ☒ The serene European countryside attracts millions of tourists.

SERRATED Adj.

toothed, with a zigzag edge

- ☑ **Syn.** jagged, notched, ragged
- * **Ant.** smooth, flat, even
- ☒ The serrated edge of the branch cut him sharply.

SERVILE Adj.

like a slave, ingratiating, menial, obsequious

- Syn.** sycophantic, subservient, unctuous
- Ant.** bossy, arrogant
- ☒ Your servile behaviour will only earn you disdain and contempt.

SEQUEL

anything that follows

- ☑ **Syn.** continuation, with flow
- * **Ant.** gap, breaks
- ☒ I hear they're making another sequel to the movie, Matrix.

SHAM N.

fraud, hoax, counterfeit

- ☑ **Syn.** pretense, deception, con, fraud
- * **Ant.** genuine, real, authentic
- ☒ It turned out that he wasn't a real doctor at all – he was just a sham.

SHAMBLES N.

slaughter house; scene of a mess or a muddle

- ☑ **Syn.** mess, muddle, dump
- ☒ After the dinner was over, my room was in shambles.

SHARD

piece of broken glass or pottery

- ☑ **Syn.** fragment, splinter
- ☒ Bina picked up the shards of the broken vase and attempted to glue them back together.

SHEEPISH

timid, meek, bashful

- ☑ **Syn.** ashamed, mortified
- * **Ant.** unabashed, unembarrassed
- ☒ Sam looked sheepish and apologetic when he was caught smoking in the no-smoking zone.

SHIRK

to avoid a task due to laziness or fear

- ☑ **Syn.** dodge, shuffle
- * **Ant.** fulfilling the duty, sincere
- ☒ She was hard-working and did not shirk any task.

SHODDY Adj.

sham; not genuine; inferior

- ☑ **Syn.** careless, slapdash, inferior
- ☒ If you look at the way the furniture has been put together, it's fairly shoddy.

SHREW N.

scolding woman

- ☑ **Syn.** termagant, spitfire, martinet
- ☒ Her former husband describes her as a greedy and manipulative shrew.

SIESTA N.

afternoon sleep

- ☑ **Syn.** rest, nap, sleep, snooze
- ☒ In most Mediterranean countries markets close down for siesta.

SIMIAN Adj.

monkey-like

- ☒ Some mammals may show simian characteristics but not the monkey's intelligence.

SIMULATE V.

to pretend, duplicate, copy, clone

- ☑ **Syn.** replicate, reproduce, imitate
- ☒ The most important part of astronaut training is to simulate space flight conditions.

SINECURE N.

well-paid position with little responsibility

- ✗ The post was just a sinecure passed down from one party member to another.

SINEWY Adj.

tough; strong and firm

- ✓ **Syn.** wiry, lean, strong
- ✗ His sinewy and muscular physique adds to his erudite demeanour.

SINGE

to burn slightly, scorch

- ✓ **Syn.** char, blacken
- ✗ Martha singed the hairs on her arm while trying to save the vessel on the stove from toppling

SINISTER Adj.

evil

- ✓ **Syn.** menacing, ominous, evil, creepy
- ✗ Every society has certain sinister elements; religion has nothing to do with it.

SINUOUS Adj.

winding; bending in and out; not morally honest

- ✓ **Syn.** lithe, supple, twisting, windy
- * **Ant.** straight, erect
- ✗ The sinuous movement of the snake propelled it through the desert sand.

SKIRMISH N.

slight battle between opposite sides

- ✓ **Syn.** contest, encounter, struggle
- ✗ We are receiving reports of several skirmishes in the surrounding countryside.

SLANDER V.

to say untrue or malicious things about a person

- ✓ **Syn.** insult, malign, libel, defamation
- * **Ant.** acclamation, praise
- ✗ He sued the papers for slander against him.

SLIGHT

to treat as unimportant, insult

- ✓ **Syn.** lightweight, inconsequential
- * **Ant.** substantial, important
- ✗ Prakash slighted his old friend Shyamala by not inviting her to his birthday party.

SLIPSHOD

careless, hasty

- ✓ **Syn.** disorganised, casual
- * **Ant.** meticulous, careful
- ✗ Because he was so stressed out, Kumar did a rather slipshod job of his last project.

SLOTH N. **SLOTHFUL** Adj.

laziness

- ✓ **Syn.** idleness, laziness, inactivity
- * **Ant.** liveliness, energy, sparkle
- ✗ The report criticises the government's sloth in tackling environmental problems.

SLOVENLY Adj.

untidy, careless

- ✓ **Syn.** sloppy, dishevelled, messy
- * **Ant.** tidy, neat
- ✗ The store manager lectured his employees on the importance of neatness, warning them that a slovenly appearance was cause for dismissal.

SLUGGARD

lazy, inactive person

- ✓ **Syn.** immobile, impassive
- * **Ant.** active, energetic
- ✗ He was a sluggard, only interested in eating potato chips while lazing on the couch and watching TV.

SMATTERING N.

slight knowledge

- ✓ **Syn.** bit, modicum, dash, smidgen
- ✗ I've only got a smattering of experience with computers.

SMIRK N. V.

conceited smile

- ✓ **Syn.** grin, leer, sneer, simper
- ✗ Polly had a smirk on her face when her colleague made a poor presentation.

SMOULDER V.

burn without flame; be liable to break out at any moment

- ✓ **Syn.** burn, smoke, glow
- ✗ Safety regulations prevent the sale of any furniture that can catch fire from a smouldering cigarette.

SMUG Adj.

self-satisfied, narcissistic

- ✓ **Syn.** superior, arrogant, conceited
- * **Ant.** humble, modest, unassuming
- ✗ Most Indian companies are facing immense difficulties in the liberalised regime, smug as they were earlier under protection.

SNICKER or **SNIGGER** N. V.

half-stifled laugh, laugh at someone

- ✓ **Syn.** scorn, scoff, mock, deride
- ✗ There was snicker in the class when the teacher made a mistake.
- They spent much time sniggering at the clothes worn by the members of rival group.

SNIPPET

tiny part, tidbit

- ☑ **Syn.** morsel, fragment
- * **Ant.** total, whole
- ☒ From the brief snippet of conversation she overheard, Isha realised that her job was in danger.

SNUB N. V.

insult, disregard; spurn, ostracise

- ☑ **Syn.** ignore, slight, rebuff
- * **Ant.** admit, acknowledge, allow
- ☒ The PM is rumoured to have snubbed the offer.

SNUG Adj.

warm and comfortable, homey, cosy

- ☑ **Syn.** cosy, warm, homely, close
- * **Ant.** bleak, unwelcoming, austere, miserable, drab
- ☒ We curled up in bed, all snug and warm and listened to the wind in the trees outside.

SOBRIETY

seriousness

- ☑ **Syn.** solemnness, gravity
- * **Ant.** anxiety, perturbation, discomposure
- ☒ Shashank's witty comments alleviated the sobriety of the budget conference.

SOBRIQUET

nickname

- ☑ **Syn.** moniker, byname, pet name
- * **Ant.** full name, formal designation
- ☒ One of Ronald Reagan's sobriquets was "The Gipper".

SODDEN

thoroughly soaked, saturated

- ☑ **Syn.** drenched, streaming
- * **Ant.** dry, arid
- ☒ My shoes were thoroughly sodden after trekking through the damp forest grass.

SOJOURN

visit, stay

- ☑ **Syn.** stopover, residence
- ☒ After graduating from college, Kalyanii decided on an extended sojourn in South India.

SOLECISM N.

construction that is flagrantly incorrect

- ☑ **Syn.** error, mistake, blunder
- ☒ The article contains many solecisms.

SOLICITOUS

concerned, attentive, eager

- ☑ **Syn.** mindful, responsible
- * **Ant.** irresponsible, careless
- ☒ The solicitous waiter stood at the star's table right through the meal, attentive to her every need.

SOMBRE

dark, gloomy

- ☑ **Syn.** melancholy, dismal
- ☒ Everyone at the funeral was wearing dark, sombre clothes except for the little girl in the flowery dress.

SOMNAMBULISM N. , SOMNAMBULIST N.

walking in sleep

- ☒ The defence lawyer claimed that the accused suffered from somnambulism.

SOMNOLENT

drowsy, sleepy, inducing sleep

- ☑ **Syn.** tired, languid
- * **Ant.** energetic, enthusiastic
- ☒ She felt somnolent after a tiring schedule.

SONOROUS Adj.

which makes a loud ringing noise

- ☑ **Syn.** loud, deep, resonant
- * **Ant.** thin, fine, sheer, reedy
- ☒ The sound of the sonorous church bells brought the whole village to life.

SOPHIST

person good at arguing deviously

- ☑ **Syn.** debator, swindler, trickster
- * **Ant.** dumb, quiet
- ☒ The philosopher, known as a masterful sophist, was respected by people but not trusted.

SOPORIFIC Adj.

sleep-inducing

- ☑ **Syn.** hypnotic, heavy, monotonous
- * **Ant.** stimulating, inspiring, exciting
- ☒ A good lunch and a bad lecture are both soporific.

SORDID Adj.

wretched, foul, dirty, inferior

- ☑ **Syn.** squalid, distasteful, foul
- * **Ant.** pleasant, enjoyable, lovely
- ☒ Journalists snooped around for sordid bits of gossip.

SPARTAN Adj.

lacking luxury and comfort; sternly disciplined

- ☑ **Syn.** frugal, simple, basic, bare, severe
- * **Ant.** luxurious, comfortable, deluxe
- ☒ They lead a rather spartan life, with no comforts or luxuries.

SPASMODIC Adj.

fitful; periodic

- ☑ **Syn.** irregular, sporadic
- * **Ant.** continuous, incessant, constant
- ☒ His spasmodic attempts dieting did not achieve anything.

SPATE N.

sudden flood

- ☑ **Syn.** epidemic, wave, rash, craze
- ☒ The river which passes through our village, causes a spate every year.
- ☒ Police are investigating a spate of burglaries in the Kingsland Road area.

SPECIOUS Adj.

seemingly reasonable but incorrect

- ☑ **Syn.** false, hollow, erroneous, baseless
- ☒ Her specious arguments didn't really convince anyone.

SPECTRE N. , **SPECTRAL** Adj.

ghost, fear; ghostly

- ☑ **Syn.** apparition, spirit, image
- ☒ The spectre of failure made him nervous.

SPECULATION

contemplation, act of taking business risks for financial gain

- ☑ **Syn.** gamble, hypothesising
- ☒ Speculation in the stock markets is quite common.

SPONTANEOUS

on the spur of the moment, impulsive

- ☑ **Syn.** impromptu, impulsive
- * **Ant.** planned, calculative
- ☒ Jean took a spontaneous decision to go to the movies instead of visiting her in-laws.

SPOONERISM N.

exchanging letter of words by mistake

- ☒ The Reverend William Spooner used to produce spoonerisms such as "a scoop of boy trouts", instead of "a troop of boy scouts."

SPORADIC Adj.

occasional, recurrent, infrequent

- ☑ **Syn.** intermittent, infrequent, erratic
- * **Ant.** regular, usual, normal, recurring
- ☒ Your sporadic visits to the library will not fetch the desired results.

SPORTIVE

frollicsome, playful

- ☑ **Syn.** high spirited, romping
- * **Ant.** solemn, staid
- ☒ The lion roared in pain as the sportive cub bit its tail playfully.

SPRIGHTLY

lively, animated

- ☑ **Syn.** energetic, vigorous
- * **Ant.** doddering, sluggish
- ☒ He was quite sprightly and active for a 98-year-old.

SPURIOUS Adj.

false; counterfeit; forged; illogical

- ☑ **Syn.** bogus, forged
- * **Ant.** genuine, authentic, indisputable, actual
- ☒ Only experts can distinguish between a spurious diamond and a genuine one.

SPURN V.

reject; scorn

- ☑ **Syn.** snub, slight, repulse, disdain
- * **Ant.** accept, believe, recognise, admit
- ☒ I think he was rather outraged that I'd spurned his advances.

SQUABBLE N.

quarrel, argument, altercation

- ☑ **Syn.** argue, quarrel, bicker, row
- ☒ They squabbled in the morning, made up by evening and started all over again the next morning.

SQUALID Adj. **SQUALOR** N.

shabby, dirty, filthy, sooty, sordid

- ☑ **Syn.** filthy, dirty, foul, nasty
- * **Ant.** clean, spotless, unsoiled
- ☒ Many prisons, even today, are overcrowded and squalid places.

SQUANDER V.

to waste away money or energy

- ☑ **Syn.** waste, spend, dissipate, misuse
- * **Ant.** save, put aside, keep, bank
- ☒ It's better to save your money for when you really need it than to squander it.

SQUEAMISH Adj.

easily shocked, easily made sick

- ☑ **Syn.** delicate, prudish, particular
- * **Ant.** strong, burly, robust, glaring
- ☒ Many cooks are squeamish about putting live shellfish into boiling water.

SQUIRM V.

to wriggle about, writhe, fidget

- ☑ **Syn.** wriggle, writhe, twist, fidget
- ☒ The thief squirmed when the police asked him some searching questions.

STAGNANT

immobile, stale

- ☑ **Syn.** inert, stable
- * **Ant.** following, running
- ☒ That stagnant pond is a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes.

STALEMATE N.

deadlock

- ☑ **Syn.** impasse, deadlock, draw, tie
- ☒ The talks on wage revision has again reached a stalemate.

STALK

to hunt, pursue

- ☑ **Syn.** to look for, to search for
- ☒ The rock star put a restraining order on the insane woman who had been stalking him for many years.

STALWART N.

strong, vigorous, brave person

- ☑ **Syn.** strong, muscular, athletic
- ☒ The Tatas have been the stalwarts of Indian industry.

STAUNCH V.

to stop blood from flowing, resist, check

- ☑ **Syn.** resolute, unyielding, stubborn
- * **Ant.** irresolute, vacillating, unsure
- ☒ The country's asylum laws were amended to staunch the flow of economic migrants.

STARTLE V.

frighten, alarm, intimidate, spook

- ☑ **Syn.** surprise, shock, frighten
- ☒ The noise of the car startled the birds and the whole group flew up into the air.

STICKLER N.

perfectionist, purist

- ☑ **Syn.** pedant, nitpicker, martinet
- ☒ He's a stickler for detail.

STIFLE V.

suffocate, curb, censor, suppress

- ☑ **Syn.** smother, throttle, choke
- * **Ant.** encourage, let out
- ☒ He threw a blanket over the burning frying pan to stifle the flames.

STIGMA N.

guilt, blame, onus, shame, disgrace

- ☑ **Syn.** shame, disgrace, dishonour
- * **Ant.** honour, credit
- ☒ There is no longer any stigma attached to getting a divorce.

STILTED

stiff, unnatural

- ☑ **Syn.** artificial, unrelaxed
- * **Ant.** effortless, natural
- ☒ The nervous father of the bride gave a rather stilted speech at the wedding banquet.

STINT N.

job, task, assignment, duty, chore

- ☑ **Syn.** spell, stretch, period
- ☒ His stint at the World Bank taught him a lot.

STIPEND

allowance, fixed amount of money paid regularly

- ☑ **Syn.** salary, emolument
- * **Ant.** incentive, perks
- ☒ Unable to survive on her small stipend from the university, Jane was forced to take loans.

STIPPLE V.

paint or draw with dots

- ☒ He stippled paint on the canvas to create an interesting abstract painting.

STIPULATE V.

insist, demand, require

- ☑ **Syn.** specify, instruct, order
- ☒ In a democratic setup it is difficult to stipulate a monetary fine for spitting on the roads.

STOCKADE

enclosed area forming defensive wall

- ☑ **Syn.** a military prison, defensive area
- * **Ant.** open place, public area
- ☒ As the enemy approached, the soldiers took their defensive positions behind the stockade.

STOIC N.

person who accepts pains without complaining

- ☑ **Syn.** austere, ascetic, unmoved
- ☒ We knew she must have been in pain, despite her stoic attitude.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. stringent | a. not obvious |
| 2. stymie | b. awesome |
| 3. subjugate | c. thwart |
| 4. sublime | d. strict |
| 5. subtle | e. subdue |

1.(d) 2.(c) 3.(e) 4.(b) 5.(a)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

STOLID Adj. **STOLIDITY** n.

slow and heavy, not excitable, phlegmatic, stoic; dullness; impassiveness

- ☑ **Syn.** impassive, matter-of-fact
- ☒ IBM's growth has been a stolid unlike that of Microsoft.

STOUT Adj.

robust, sturdy, muscular, strong

- ☑ **Syn.** fat, heavy, solid
- * **Ant.** weak, slight
- ☒ I've bought myself a pair of good stout boots for hiking.

STRATAGEM

plan or trick designed to deceive an enemy

- ☑ **Syn.** scheme, tactic
- * **Ant.** random, without plan
- ☒ The Trojan Horse must be one of the most successful military stratagems in history.

STRATIFY

to arrange in layers

- ☒ Caste was used to stratify society in ancient India.

STREW V.

spread randomly; sprinkle; scatter

- ☑ **Syn.** encumber, litter, fill
- * **Ant.** free, gratis, at no cost
- ☒ The floor of the auditorium was strewn with flowers.

STRIDENT Adj. **STRIDENCY** N.

rough, harsh, caustic, loud

- ☑ **Syn.** vociferous, clamorous, shrill
- * **Ant.** yielding, squashy, elastic
- ☒ The strident commercials often take away the pleasure of watching movies.

STRINGENT Adj.

strict, firm, inflexible, harsh

- ☑ **Syn.** severe, strict, rigorous, stern
- * **Ant.** lax, sloppy, flexible, sloppy
- ☒ In spite of the rather stringent rules at camp, we enjoyed the activities.

STULTIFY V. , **STULTIFICATION** N.

to make someone stupid

- ☑ **Syn.** deaden, dampen, cloud, blunt
- * **Ant.** emphasise, highlight, stress
- ☒ Too much of pampering will only stultify the child.

STUNTED

having arrested growth or development

- ☑ **Syn.** bantam, dwarf
- * **Ant.** giant, huge
- ☒ The plant's growth was stunted, smothered by the rapidly growing creeper.

STUPEFY V.

to astonish, daze, stun, shock

- ☑ **Syn.** astonish, astound, amaze, stun
- ☒ Stupefied by the number of items required for a lengthy canoe trip, I gritted my teeth and set about collecting the supplies.

STUPOR N.

state of apathy; daze; lack of awareness

- ☑ **Syn.** trance, coma, daze, dream
- ☒ While in a drunken stupor he became abusive and violent and had to be restrained by hotel staff.

STYLISE

to fashion, formalise

- ☑ **Syn.** magnified, polished
- * **Ant.** casual, informal
- ☒ After Nita stylised her wardrobe to match Princess Diana's, everyone said they could have been sisters.

STYMIE

to block or thwart

- ☑ **Syn.** obstruct, inhibit
- * **Ant.** assist, help
- ☒ The guard's effort to trap the bank robber was stymied when the thief escaped through a rear window.

SUAVE (*SWAHV*) Adj. **SUAIVITY** N.

extremely polite, slick, smooth, genteel

- ☑ **Syn.** smooth, polished, polite, urbane
- ☒ A successful manager has first of all got to be suave.

SUBDUED

suppressed, stifled

- ☑ **Syn.** low-spirited, downcast
- * **Ant.** lively, cheerful
- ☒ The actor was momentarily subdued after the director's outburst, but was soon his overconfident self again.

SUBJECTION

dependence, obedience, submission

- ☑ **Syn.** domination, oppression
- * **Ant.** submissive, accommodating
- ☒ The coach demanded total subjection from the athletes in his team.

SUBJUGATE V.

overpower, enslave, subdue, defeat

- ☑ **Syn.** beat down, vanquish
- * **Ant.** help, foster, nurture
- ☒ The British subjugated the Indians through divide and rule.

SUBLIMATE V.

refine; purify

- ☒ We should try to sublimate our stamina and energies into constructive work.

SUBLIME Adj.

grand, noble, magnificent, very great

- ☑ **Syn.** inspiring, inspirational, uplifting
- * **Ant.** ridiculous, ludicrous, absurd
- ☒ The dresses in the fashion show went from the sublime to the ridiculous.

SUBLIMINAL Adj.

below the consciousness of the senses

- ☑ **Syn.** subconscious, concealed
- * **Ant.** explicit
- ☒ The interview was carried out in front of a factory to give voters the subliminal message that the Prime Minister was a man of the people.

SUBSERVIENT Adj. **SUBSERVIENCE** N.

behaving like a slave; servile; obsequious

- ☑ **Syn.** submissive, obedient
- * **Ant.** pushy, aggressive
- ☒ Being an upright man, he refused to be subservient to any one.

SUBSEQUENT

following in time or order

- ☑ **Syn.** succeeding, ensuing
- * **Ant.** previous, prior
- ☒ A statement will be issued subsequent to the meeting.

SUBSISTENCE N.

existence; means of support; livelihood

- ☑ **Syn.** maintenance, support, upkeep
- ☒ My pension is the only means of my subsistence.

SUBTERFUGE N.

deception, trick, fraud, hoax

- ☑ **Syn.** trick, ploy, ruse, dodge
- * **Ant.** honesty, openness
- ☒ It was clear that they had obtained the information by subterfuge.

SUBTERRANEAN

hidden, secret, underground

- ☑ **Syn.** secret, concealed
- * **Ant.** on the surface, in light
- ☒ The new railway had to take the subterranean route as there was no room left above ground in the growing city.

SUBTLE

understated, muted

- ☑ **Syn.** toned down, subdued
- * **Ant.** lurid, obvious
- ☒ The pickpocket was so subtle that his victims did not even realise they had been robbed.

SUBVERSION N. **SUBVERSIVE** Adj.

revolt, mutiny, treason; tending to overthrow; destructive

- ☒ He was found guilty of subversion and imprisoned.

SUCCINCT

terse, brief, concise

- ☑ **Syn.** compact, condensed
- * **Ant.** verbose, lengthy
- ☒ She was sought after by many talk shows, as her remarks were always succinct and to the point.

SUCCOUR N.

help, assistance

- ☑ **Syn.** help, aid, assistance, support
- ☒ The whole world, the developed and the developing countries, should provide succour to the starving children of Ethiopia, Rawanda and such other African countries.

SUCCULENT Adj., N.

juicy; full of richness

- ☑ **Syn.** juicy, moist, tender, luscious
- * **Ant.** dry, shrivelled, unappetising
- ☒ This is the land of plenty of succulent fruits.

SUFFERABLE

bearable

- ☑ **Syn.** manageable, tolerable
- * **Ant.** unbearable, enduring
- ☒ The only thing that made his prison term sufferable was his beloved pet mouse, Romeo.

SULLEN

brooding, gloomy

- ☑ **Syn.** morose, resentful
- * **Ant.** cheerful, sociable
- ☒ The sullen child sat in the corner by herself, refusing to play with her classmates.

SUMPTUOUS Adj.

very luxurious, splendid, opulent

- ☑ **Syn.** extravagant, costly, superb
- * **Ant.** meagre, scanty, too little
- ☒ The dinner served at the wedding was simply sumptuous.

SUNDER V.

separate; part

- ☑ **Syn.** divide, split, cleave
- ☒ North and South Korea were politically sundered.

SUPERANNUATED Adj.

retired or disqualified because of age

- ☒ He was superannuated from his job when he turned 60.

SUPERCILIOUS Adj.

arrogant, lofty, haughty

- ☑ **Syn.** snooty, patronising
- * **Ant.** modest, humble, meek
- ☒ The supercilious invariably have a great fall.

SUPERFICIAL

hasty, shallow and phony

- ☑ **Syn.** external, outer
- * **Ant.** deep, thorough
- ☒ The politician was friendly, but in a superficial, unconvincing way.

SUPERFLUOUS Adj.

excessive; overabundant; unnecessary

- ☑ **Syn.** surplus, not required, excessive
- * **Ant.** essential, basic, fundamental
- ☒ Whenever I go travelling, I always make sure that I don't take any superfluous luggage with me.

SUPERNUMERARY N.

person or thing in excess of what is necessary; extra

- ☒ His role in the play seemed supernumerary when he appeared on the stage.

SUPERSEDE V.

cause to be set aside; replace

- ☑ **Syn.** succeed, supplant, surpass
- ☒ He was promoted superseding other senior officers.

SUPLANT V.

replace; usurp

- ☑ **Syn.** displace, succeed, supersede
- ☒ In most offices, the typewriter has now been supplanted by the computer.

SUPPLE

flexible, pliant

- ☑ **Syn.** agile, sprightly
- * **Ant.** stiff, unfit
- ☒ The supple stalks of bamboo swayed back and forth in the wind.

SUPLIANT Adj., N.

entreating; beseeching

- ☑ **Syn.** begging, pleading, imploring
- ☒ Few can resist a suppliant dog.

SUPPLICANT

one who asks humbly and earnestly

- ☑ **Syn.** borrower, suitor
- ☒ He was normally a tough fellow, but transformed into a supplicant when pleading with the banker for a loan.

SURFEIT Adj.

excess, plethora, abundance

- ☑ **Syn.** surplus, glut, flood
- * **Ant.** deficit, under-supply
- ☒ The country has a surfeit of cheap labour.

SURLY Adj.

rude; cross

- ☑ **Syn.** gruff, brusque, abrupt, curt
- * **Ant.** courteous, considerate, civil
- ☒ His surly behaviour is the root cause of his failure.

SURMISE N.

a guess, supposition, assumption

- ☑ **Syn.** guess, infer, deduce, gather
- * **Ant.** know
- ☒ I surmise that Rajat is involved in some illegal activity.

SURMOUNT V.

to overcome an obstacle

- ☑ **Syn.** prevail, conquer, triumph
- * **Ant.** fail, not pass, disappoint
- ☒ Progress results when you surmount your limitations.

SURPASS

to do better than, be superior to

- ☑ **Syn.** excel, outshine
- ☒ Ayrton Senna surpassed his own record to clinch the F1 title.

SURREPTITIOUS Adj.

clandestine, deceitful, covert

- ☑ **Syn.** secret, sly, crafty
- * **Ant.** blatant, open, honest
- ☒ He'd been so surreptitious about his drinking that no one realised he'd become an alcoholic.

SURROGATE N.

substitute, backup, standby

- ☑ **Syn.** replacement, proxy, deputy
- ☒ Due to a ban on direct advertising, liquor manufacturers have to rely on surrogate advertising in India.

SURVEILLANCE N.

strict watch, observation

- ☑ **Syn.** watch, scrutiny
- ☒ More banks are now installing surveillance cameras.

SUSCEPTIBLE

vulnerable, unprotected

- ☑ **Syn.** credulous, gullible
- * **Ant.** sceptical, streetwise
- ☒ Because of her weakened state, Veena was susceptible to infection.

SUSPEND

to defer, interrupt, dangle, hang

- ☑ **Syn.** postpone, delay
- * **Ant.** continue, resume
- ☒ The Golden Gate bridge is suspended two miles in the air on steel wires.

SUSTAIN

support, uphold

- ☑ **Syn.** endure, undergo
- ★ **Ant.** collapse under
- ☞ If we can sustain our efforts a little longer, I'm sure our plan will succeed.

SWARTHY Adj.

dark; dusky;

- ☞ He was swarthy but his smile really dispelled all darkness.

SWELTER V. , **SWELTERING** Adj.

be oppressed by heat

- ☑ **Syn.** scorching, red hot, sizzling
- ★ **Ant.** freezing, cold, icy, chilly
- ☞ In many states in India, people swelter in the summer season.

SWERVE V.

to move to one side, deviate, detour

- ☑ **Syn.** veer, deviate, change direction
- ☞ The car swerved after slipping on the road.

SWINDLER N.

cheat

- ☑ **Syn.** fraud, faker, biker, shark
- ☞ He was very successful as a swindler because he was able to persuade people to believe in him.

SYCOPHANT N.

person who flatters those in power

- ☑ **Syn.** toady, flatterer
- ☞ The politician is surrounded by sycophants.

SYMBIOSIS

cooperation, mutual helpfulness

- ☑ **Syn.** alliance, coalition
- ★ **Ant.** autonomy, competition
- ☞ The rhino and the bird live in symbiosis; the rhino gives the bird food in the form of ticks, and the bird rids the rhino of parasites.

SYMPOSIUM

meeting with short presentations on related topics

- ☞ The university's English department held a symposium on sexual imagery in the works of D. H. Lawrence.

SYNOPSIS

plot summary

- ☑ **Syn.** abstract, outline
- ☞ Oren wrote a one-page synopsis of a 55-page book.

SYNTHESIS

blend, combination

- ☞ The methods used in the experiment were a synthesis of techniques from biology and medicine.

SYNTHETIC

artificial, imitation

- ☑ **Syn.** mock, simulated
- ★ **Ant.** real, natural
- ☞ The flowers in the window looked so realistic that you could hardly tell they were made of synthetic materials.

Political Science

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

BUREAUCRACY	:	a system of govt. in which most of the important decisions are taken by state officials rather than by elected representatives
GERRYMANDER	:	to alter voting district lines so as to further one's own interests in obtaining votes
INCUMBENT	:	currently in office; running against a challenger
JINGOISM	:	belligerent or excessive patriotism
JUNKET	:	personal trip of a public official financed by public funds
NEPOTISM	:	political favoritism toward friends and relatives, especially in granting favours
PARTISAN	:	advocating or favouring the views of one party
RABBLE-ROUSER	:	a person who speaks with intention of inflaming the emotions of a crowd of people, typically for political reasons
QUORUM	:	the minimum number of members required to conduct business
STALWART	:	an unwavering, staunch supporter

“T”

TABLEAU

vivid description, striking incident or scene

- ☑ **Syn.** pageant, scene
- ☒ The tourists admired the famous painter's lifelike tableau of the Last Supper.

TABLOID N.

a type of popular newspaper with small pages, many pictures and short simple reports usually of the sensational kind

- ☑ **Syn.** lurid, scandalous, shocking
- * **Ant.** admirable, estimable, excellent
- ☒ Information on the personal life of a film star is just the sort of story the tabloids love.

TABOO N.

restriction, ban, prohibition, bar; the avoidance, among a particular group of people, of particular actions or words for religious or social reasons

- ☑ **Syn.** forbidden, banned, outlawed
- * **Ant.** acceptable, suitable, satisfactory
- ☒ Death is a taboo subject for many.

TACIT

silently understood or implied

- ☑ **Syn.** implicit, understood
- * **Ant.** explicit, stated
- ☒ Everyone in the room knew that a tacit agreement had been reached about the course of action.

TACITURN Adj.

uncommunicative, reserved, silent, reticent; saying little (esp. habitually)

- ☑ **Syn.** silent, cold, quiet, distance
- * **Ant.** talkative, communicative, chatty
- ☒ Taciturn candidates will not be able to perform well in stage shows.

TACTILE Adj.

sensitive to touch, corporeal, related to touch

- ☑ **Syn.** physical, concrete, perceptible
- * **Ant.** intangible, vague, subtle
- ☒ The right hemisphere of the brain specialises in the perception of complex patterns, both visual and tactile.

TAINTED Adj. TAINT V.

contaminated, corrupt

- ☑ **Syn.** ruined, stained, polluted
- * **Ant.** clean, untainted, wholesome
- ☒ His reputation was permanently tainted by the financial scandal.

TALISMAN N.

an object supposed to bring good luck

- ☑ **Syn.** charm, amulet, fetish
- ☒ She has worn the ring as a talisman ever since she survived the plane crash.

TANG

sharp flavour or odour

- ☑ **Syn.** taste, savour
- ☒ After being smoked with herring, the bacon had a distinctly fishy tang.

TANGENTIAL

irrelevant, inessential

- ☑ **Syn.** secondary, unimportant
- * **Ant.** primary, important
- ☒ Your argument is interesting, but it's tangential to the matter at hand, so I suggest we get back to the point.

TANGIBLE

that can be sensed, perceptible, measurable

- ☑ **Syn.** palpable, tactile
- * **Ant.** theoretical, abstract
- ☒ The storming of the castle didn't bring the soldiers tangible rewards, but it brought them great honour.

TANGY Adj.

with a sharp taste and smell

- ☑ **Syn.** tasty, spicy, sharp, strong
- * **Ant.** bland, insipid, weak, mild
- ☒ Everyone loves the tangy pickles grandma prepares.

TANTALISE V.

entice, titillate, attract, arouse; to excite or attract (someone) by an offer or a suggestion of something which is, in fact, unlikely to happen

- ☑ **Syn.** tease, entice, excite, tempt
- ☒ Tantalised by the prospect of two weeks in the Bahamas, she bought ten lottery tickets.

TANTAMOUNT Adj.

identical, same, equal, synonymous; being almost the same or having the same effect as (usually something bad)

- ☑ **Syn.** equal, the same as, identical
- * **Ant.** different, dissimilar, unlike
- ☒ The bank wouldn't lend any more money, which was tantamount to making the business close down.

TANTRUM N.

attack of uncontrollable bad temper, a sudden period of uncontrolled childish anger

- ☑ **Syn.** outburst, fit, paroxysm
- * **Ant.** out of shape, unfit, in poor shape
- ☒ The director and the producer of Hindi films usually have to bear with the tantrums of their stars.

TARDY Adj.

late, sluggish, delayed, slow or late in happening or arriving

- ☑ **Syn.** slow, behind
- * **Ant.** punctual, prompt, timely
- ☒ The star made a fashionable tardy entry.

TARNISH V.

disgrace, damage, obscure, discolour; to make or (esp. of metal) become less bright or a different colour

- ☑ **Syn.** dull, stain, smear, dirty
- * **Ant.** clean, dirt-free, sanitary
- ☒ The media has the evil power to tarnish the image even of a celebrity with impeccable character and record.

TARNISHED

corroded, discoloured

- ☑ **Syn.** discredited, disgraced
- * **Ant.** bright, polished
- ☒ The antique silver plate was so tarnished that Anna had to polish it for hours before she could use it.

TARRY V.

delay; dawdle

- ☑ **Syn.** linger, loiter, procrastinate
- ☒ The teacher asked the students not to tarry in the corridors and to go to the library instead.

TAUT Adj.

tense, hard, secure, firm, tight or completely stretched

- ☑ **Syn.** tight, rigid, firm, rigid
- * **Ant.** slack, loose, limp, baggy, floppy
- ☒ He kept his eyes on the road ahead, his face taut with concentration.

TAUTOLOGY N.

unnecessary use of synonyms in a single phrase

- ☒ "Nothing was covered up and no information was concealed," said the minister, producing his second tautology of the interview.

TAWDRY Adj.

blatant, brazen, gaudy, tasteless; looking bright and attractive but in fact cheap and of low quality

- ☑ **Syn.** ostentatious, showy
- * **Ant.** tasteful, refined, elegant
- ☒ The clothes that had looked so beautiful on stage looked tawdry, hanging in the dressing room.

TAXONOMY

science of classification

- ☒ Certain new species do not seem to fit into the systems of classification used in traditional taxonomy.

TECHNOCRAT

strong believer in technology, technical expert

- ☒ The technocrat could barely hide his contempt as the CEO struggled to open a file on his computer.

TEETOTALLER N.

person who never drinks alcohol

- ☒ The tribe of teetotalers is shrinking.

TEMERITY N.

audacity, insolence, effrontery,chutzpah; a willingness to do or say something that shocks, angers or upsets other people

- ☑ **Syn.** nerve, gall, cheek
- * **Ant.** silence, discretion, shyness
- ☒ He had the temerity to tell me that smoking was bad for me when I knew he was a smoker himself.

TEMPERANCE

restraint, self-control, moderation

- ☑ **Syn.** abstention, sobriety
- * **Ant.** crapulence, bibulousness
- ☒ The strict, religious community frowned on newcomers who did not behave with temperance.

TEMPEST N. **TEMPESTUOUS** Adj.

storm; violently stormy, impassioned

- ☑ **Syn.** storm, gale, snowstorm
- ☒ The ship was blown 200 miles off-course by the tempest.
- ☒ She had a tempestuous nature and got into a lot of arguments.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. surreptitious | a. naturally untalkative |
| 2. sycophant | b. flatterer |
| 3. synthesis | c. combining of parts |
| 4. tacit | d. sneaky |
| 5. taciturn | e. implied |

1.(d) 2.(b) 3.(c) 4.(e) 5.(a)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

TEMPORAL Adj.

not lasting forever, limited by time, secular, relating to practical matters or material things

- ☑ **Syn.** chronological, of time, activist
- ☒ Everything in the life of a person and in the world is temporal.

TEMPORISE V.

avoid committing oneself, gain time; to delay making a decision or stating your opinion in order to obtain an advantage

- ☒ The government temporised for months, waiting for the economy to pick up before calling an election.

TENABLE

defensible, reasonable

- ☑ **Syn.** justifiable, sustainable
- * **Ant.** untenable, indefensible
- ☒ This politically convenient view is no longer tenable.

TENACIOUS Adj. **TENACITY** N.

resolute, dedicated, stubborn, holding tightly onto something or keeping an opinion in a determined way; firmness, persistence, adhesiveness

- ☑ **Syn.** stubborn, resolute, firm
- * **Ant.** irresolute, unsure, cowardly
- ☒ The conservation group was tenacious in its opposition to the new airport.

TENDENTIOUS Adj.

having an aim, biased, designed to further a cause; (of speech or writing) expressing or supporting a particular opinion which many other people disagree with

- ☒ He claims that the article gives a distorted and highly tendentious view of the political situation in the country.

TENET N.

doctrine; dogma

Syn. principle, belief, percept, view

- ☒ The conservative Left does not believe in the tenets of liberalisation.

TENSILE

capable of withstanding physical stress

- ☒ Architects use tensile materials to construct buildings in earthquake-prone areas.

TENUOUS Adj.

thin, rare, slim, weak, easily damaged or proved false

- ☑ **Syn.** weak, shaky, feeble, vague
- * **Ant.** strong, sturdy, tough
- ☒ We were only able to make a tenuous connection between the two robberies.

TEPID

lukewarm, showing little enthusiasm

- ☑ **Syn.** warmish, apathetic
- * **Ant.** hot, cold, passionate
- ☒ Roxanne refused to take a bath in the tepid water, fearing that she would catch a cold.

TERSE Adj.

laconic, concise, crisp; using few words, sometimes in a way that seems rude or unfriendly

- ☑ **Syn.** short, brief, curt
- * **Ant.** rambling, wordy, confused
- ☒ In a terse statement yesterday, the company announced that it was closing three of its factories.

TESTAMENT

statement of belief, will

- ☑ **Syn.** evidence, proof
- ☒ Guy's children couldn't believe that he had left everything to his chihuahua in his last will and testament.

TESTY Adj.

irritable; short-tempered

- ☑ **Syn.** grumpy, peevish, crabby
- * **Ant.** cheerful, good-humoured
- Her chronic illness has turned her into a testy and snappy person.

TÊTE-À-TÊTE N.

private talks between two people

- ☑ **Syn.** conversation, talk, dialogue
- ☒ He is believed to have had a tête-à-tête with the PM before the cabinet reshuffle.

TETHER

to bind, tie

- ☑ **Syn.** tie up, hitch
- * **Ant.** unleash, release
- ☒ The cheetah chewed through its tether and ran away.

THEISM N.

belief that God exists; the belief that there is only one God, who is completely separate from His creations, rather than being a part of them

- ☒ Theism is a tremendous bonding force for universal brotherhood.

THEOCRACY N.

government of a community by religious leaders

- ☒ Theocracy is feasible in the country where there is a single religion and that is the state religion.

THERAPEUTIC

medicinal

- ☑ **Syn.** remedial, curing
- * **Ant.** harmful, detrimental
- ☒ Tarun found the hot springs to be very therapeutic for his aches and pains, so he bathed in them often.

THESIS

theory or hypothesis; dissertation; long, written composition

- ☑ **Syn.** proposal, contention
- ☒ Henry worked for six years on his Ph.D. thesis.

THESPIAN Adj. , N.

pertaining to drama, connected with acting and the theatre

- ☑ **Syn.** theatrical, staged
- ☒ The biography covers a thespian career which spanned four decades.

THRALL N.

slave, bondage

- ☑ **Syn.** power, yoke, enslavement
- * **Ant.** freedom, manumit
- ☒ The impossible terms set by the moneylenders held the poor illiterate farmers in thrall for generations.

THRASH V.

to batter, assail, attack; to hit hard or make a series of violent and uncontrolled movements

- ☑ **Syn.** beat, whip, lash, batter
- ☒ Police thrashed the outlaw but failed to extract a confession.

THRIFTY Adj.

careful about money, economical

- ☑ **Syn.** frugal, careful, prudent
- * **Ant.** spendthrift, wastrel, squanderer
- ☒ Fortunately he was thrifty and managed to save even out of his meagre salary.

THROES N.

great suffering; in the process of doing something which is difficult, unpleasant or painful

- ☒ My brother is in the throes of a mid-life crisis which makes him rather difficult to live with.

THRONG N.

great crowd of people

- ☑ **Syn.** multitude, mass, crowd, horde
- * **Ant.** few, little, not many
- ☒ Throngs of people were milling about the airport waiting for delayed flights.

THROTTLE V.

to strangle by squeezing the neck; a valve which allows more or less fuel to go into an engine and thus changes the power of the engine

- ☑ **Syn.** strangle, choke, stifle
- ☒ The operator opened the throttle a little and the machine ran faster.

THWART V.

prevent, deter, foil, hinder; to stop (something) from happening or (someone) from doing something

- ☑ **Syn.** spoil, prevent, foil, ruin
- * **Ant.** encourage, cheer, hearten
- ☒ She is constantly trying to thwart my efforts to make new friends.

TIFF N.

small argument, quarrel

- ☑ **Syn.** row, spat
- * **Ant.** agreement, accord, union
- ☒ We had a slight tiff over whose turn it was to clean the floor.

TIMOROUS Adj.

demonstrating fear, lacking confidence, easily frightened

- ☑ **Syn.** nervous, fearful, timid
- * **Ant.** brave, daring, fearless
- ☒ His timorous demeanour exposed his weakness.

TINGE

shade, colour

- ☑ **Syn.** dye, stain
- ☒ Photographs develop a yellowish tinge as they age.

TIRADE N.

extended scolding, denunciation, a long angry speech expressing strong disapproval

- ☑ **Syn.** outburst, rant, lecture
- * **Ant.** praise, extol, honour, admire
- ☒ Concluding his furious tirade, the opposition spokesperson demanded the minister's resignation.

TITAN

person of colossal stature or achievement

- ☒ Despite his odd personal habits, it can't be denied that Mr Shah was a titan of the nation's industry.

TITANIC Adj.

gigantic

- ☑ **Syn.** colossal, immense, huge, giant
- * **Ant.** unimportant, irrelevant
- ☒ The titanic project required a unique entrepreneurship.

TITILLATE V.

to excite, stimulate, electrify, arouse; to excite intentionally but only a little, usually with sexual images or descriptions

- ☒ These days many advertisements are designed to titillate.

TITULAR Adj.

having the title of an office without the obligations, having the title of a position but not the responsibilities, duties or power; in name only

- ☑ **Syn.** supposed, ostensible, so-called
- * **Ant.** actual, real, definite
- ☒ Even though he was only the titular head of the company, he enjoyed all amenities and perquisites.

TOADY N.

servile flatterer, yes man; a person who praises and is artificially pleasant to people in authority, usually in order to get some advantage from them

- ☑ **Syn.** flatterer, creep, crawler
- ☒ Bosses like the toadies and not the individual worker or independent adviser.

TOLERANCE

capacity to respect different values, to endure or resist something

- ☑ **Syn.** sufferance, liberality
- * **Ant.** unbearable, intolerance
- ☒ Dictators are characterised by their lack of tolerance for any opposition.

TONAL

relating to pitch or sound

- ☒ Although it has interesting lyrics, the song's tonal deficiencies make it unpleasant to the ear.

TOPOGRAPHY

art of making maps or charts

- ☑ **Syn.** contour, shape
- ☒ A master in the art of topography, Leavenworth was hired to create maps of the coast of South America.

TORMENT V.

to make someone suffer, great mental suffering and unhappiness or great physical pain

- ☑ **Syn.** anguish, suffering, agony, pain
- * **Ant.** pleasure, joy, bliss, satisfaction
- ☒ The prisoners underwent great torment under their captors.

TORPOR N. TORPID Adj.

lethargy, sluggishness, dormancy

- ☑ **Syn.** inactivity, inertia
- ☒ Our people are so lethargic that nothing can arouse them from their torpor.
- ☒ Torpid workers can hardly contribute to TQM.

TORRID Adj.

passionate, burning, hot, fiery

- ☑ **Syn.** hot, boiling, burning
- * **Ant.** cool, chill, cold
- ☒ In the torrid heat of May, no one was keen to walk far or indulge in strenuous exercise.

TORTUOUS Adj.

full of twists and turns, not direct or simple

- ☑ **Syn.** winding, twisted, twisting
- * **Ant.** straight, directly
- ☒ The route through the back streets is a little tortuous, but it helps you avoid the worst of the traffic.

TOTALITARIANISM N.

single party government system

- ☑ **Syn.** despotism, tyranny, absolutism
- * **Ant.** democracy, democratic system
- ☒ China follows totalitarianism.

TOTTERING

walk unsteadily, barely standing

- ☑ **Syn.** stagger, stumble
- * **Ant.** stable, steady
- ☒ The tottering old man still managed to make his way to the corner shop every day to buy his favourite candy bar.

TOUCHSTONE N.

stones used to test the fineness of gold alloys; criterion, an established standard or principle by which something is judged

- ☑ **Syn.** criterion, acid test, hallmark
- * **Ant.** unusual, odd, curious
- ☒ In business, having a large share of the market is often assumed to be the touchstone for success.

TOUT V.

publicise, praise excessively; to advertise or make known or praise (something or someone) repeatedly, esp. as a way of encouraging their sale, popularity or development

- ☑ **Syn.** advertise, hype, plug
- * **Ant.** understate, minimise, belittle
- ☒ The local car manufacturer has produced a series of television advertisements touting the safety features of their cars.

TOXIN

poison

- ☑ **Syn.** harmful, dangerous
- * **Ant.** fruitful, salutary
- ☒ It's essential to keep all toxins away from children, as they might eat them accidentally.

TRACTABLE Adj.

amenable, obedient, submissive; easily dealt with, controlled or persuaded

- ☑ **Syn.** good, obedient, dutiful
- * **Ant.** disobedient, defiant, naughty
- ☒ He's quite a docile, tractable child.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. surreptitious | a. naturally untalkative |
| 2. sycophant | b. flatterer |
| 3. synthesis | c. combining of parts |
| 4. tacit | d. sneaky |
| 5. taciturn | e. implied |

1.(d) 2.(b) 3.(c) 4.(e) 5.(a)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

TRADUCE V.

expose to slander, to criticise (someone or something) very negatively

- ☑ **Syn.** defame, malign, calumniate
- * **Ant.** praise, applaud, cheer
- ☒ She tried to traduce his simplicity by calling him a simpleton.

TRANQUILITY N.

calmness, peace

- ☑ **Syn.** calm, quiet, stillness
- * **Ant.** uproar, din, racket,
- ☒ I love the tranquillity of the countryside.

TRANSCENDENT Adj. , TRANSCEND V.

which rises above the level of ordinary reasoning; exceed, surpass

- ☑ **Syn.** supernatural, mystical, divine
- * **Ant.** mundane, average, mediocre
- ☒ Transcendental meditation has its own merits.

TRANSGRESS V. TRANSGRESSION N.

to go against a rule, trespass; to break (a law or moral rule)

- ☑ **Syn.** sin, lapse, do wrong
- * **Ant.** behave, act, perform
- ☒ Those are the rules and anyone who transgresses will be severely punished.

TRANSIENT Adj. TRANSITORY Adj.

something temporary, lasting for only a short time, temporary

- ☑ **Syn.** brief, temporary, passing
- * **Ant.** permanent, lasting, stable
- ☒ It is an organisation set up to provide money and help for transients.

TRANSLUCENT

partially transparent

- ☑ **Syn.** diaphanous, glassy
- * **Ant.** opaque
- ☒ The man was visible through the translucent shower curtain.

TRANSMUTE

to change in appearance or shape

- ☑ **Syn.** alter, adapt
- * **Ant.** fixed, irreversible
- ☒ In stages, the caterpillar transmuted into a beautiful butterfly.

TRANSPIRE V.

be revealed, happen; (of a fact which was secret or not known) to become known

- ☑ **Syn.** leak, come out
- ☒ No one is willing to predict what may transpire at the peace conference.

TRAPPINGS N.

outward decorations, ornaments, all the things that are part of or are typical of a particular job, situation or event

- ☑ **Syn.** accessories, frills
- ☒ He enjoyed the trappings of power, such as a chauffeur-driven car and bodyguards.

TRAUMATIC Adj.

pertaining to an injury caused by violence, severe emotional shock; pain caused by an extremely upsetting experience

- ☑ **Syn.** shocking, disturbing, upsetting
- * **Ant.** reassuring, supportive, cheering
- ☒ A traumatic experience in childhood stays a long way through one's life.

TRAVAIL N.

painful labour

- ☒ There is always a limit to enduring travail and humiliation.

TRAVESTY N.

comical parody, treatment aimed at making something appear ridiculous; something which fails to represent the values and qualities that it is intended to represent, in a way that is shocking or offensive

- ☑ **Syn.** charade, parody, farce
- ☒ The activist described the court ruling as a travesty of justice.

TREMULOUS Adj.

shaking, quivering

- ☑ **Syn.** unsteady, shaky
- * **Ant.** steady, firm, solid
- ☒ The old man's voice was tremulous but his resolve was unwavering.

TRENCHANT Adj.

sharp, biting remark; (esp. of criticism, remarks, etc.) severe and expressed with force

- ☑ **Syn.** pointed, caustic
- * **Ant.** benevolent
- ☒ His most trenchant criticism is reserved for the party leader, in his opinion, "the most incompetent and ineffectual the party has known."

TREPIDATION N.

affliction, fear or anxiety about what is going to happen

- ☑ **Syn.** fear, anxiety, concern
- * **Ant.** equanimity, calmness, poise
- ☒ There's always a certain amount of trepidation when you're starting a new job.

TRIBULATIONS N.

distress, suffering

- ☑ **Syn.** evils, harms, problems
- ☒ He is now at peace, those days of trials and tribulations are just a bad memory.

TRIFLING

of slight worth, trivial, insignificant

- ☑ **Syn.** unimportant, insignificant
- * **Ant.** serious, considerable
- ☒ That little glitch in the computer program is a trifling error; normally it works really well.

TRITE Adj.

very ordinary, commonplace, unexciting; expressed too frequently to be interesting or seem sincere

- Syn.** stale, tired, corny
- * **Ant.** original, novel, new
- I find the words of love and peace in his lyrics too trite to be taken seriously.

TRUCULENT Adj. , **TRUCULENCE** N.

aggressive and discourteous, bad-tempered and tending to argue a lot

- Syn.** hostile, defiant, fractious
- * **Ant.** friendly, gracious, open
- He was in a very truculent mood throughout the meeting.

TRUNCATE

to cut off, shorten by cutting

- Syn.** cut short, trim
- * **Ant.** lengthen, extend
- The mayor truncated his standard lengthy speech when he realised that the audience was in a hurry to go home.

TRYING – difficult to deal with

- Syn.** taxing, demanding
- * **Ant.** easy, painless
- Miraculously, she managed to finish the project under the most trying of circumstances.

TRYST N., V.

meeting

- Syn.** assignation, meeting
- This place is a regular dating joint and witnesses many a trysts.

TUMID Adj.

swollen, pompous, bombastic

- Syn.** distended, engorged, bloated
- * **Ant.** shrunken, simple, modest
- Her tumid belly was a proof of her oncoming motherhood.

TUMULT N.

commotion, riot, noise, a loud noise, esp. that produced by an excited crowd or a state of confusion, change or uncertainty

- Syn.** uproar, clamor, din
- * **Ant.** peace, calm, quiet
- You couldn't hear her speak over the tumult from the screaming fans.

TURBID Adj.

muddy, thick, disordered; (of a liquid) not transparent because of suspended matter

- Syn.** dirty
- * **Ant.** clear, obvious, lucid
- The once-clear waters of the lake have become turbid with microscopic algae.

TURBULENCE N.

state of violent agitation, a state of confusion and lack of order or strong uneven movements within air or water

- Syn.** commotion, disorder
- * **Ant.** calm, still, cool
- Due to the presence of terrorists and subversive elements, there is always turbulence in Kashmir and Assam.

TURGID Adj.

swollen, bloated, inflated, pompous; bombastic (of speech, writing, style etc.)

- Syn.** pompous, dull, hard going
- * **Ant.** airy, fresh, light, open
- Her prose is too turgid for the common reader.

TURPITUDE N.

depravity, baseness, vileness

- The turpitude of child-molesters is sickening and deserves severe punishment.

TUTELAGE N. **TUTELARY** Adj.

guardianship, training, help; advice or teaching about how to do something

- Syn.** auspices, guidance, support
- She is learning classical music under the tutelage of Pandit Jasraj.

TYCOON N.

a business magnate, baron, big shot, capitalist, a person who has succeeded in business or industry and has become very wealthy and powerful

- Syn.** magnate, mogul, industrialist
- This year has seen the rise of many business tycoons in diverse sectors.

TYRANNY N.

oppression; government by a ruler or small group of people who have unlimited power and use it unfairly and cruelly

- Syn.** oppression, cruelty, autocracy
- * **Ant.** liberty, freedom, autonomy
- Even in this age, there are tyrannies in many countries.

TYRO N.

a beginner, a novice

- Syn.** novice, learner, trainee
- * **Ant.** expert, old hand
- A tyro cannot command the price of a master.

“U”

UBIQUITOUS Adj.

thing which seems to be present everywhere, widespread, common, omnipresent

- ☑ **Syn.** ever-present, everywhere
- * **Ant.** rare, scarce, sporadic
- ☒ Corruption is a ubiquitous phenomenon around the world.

ULTERIOR Adj.

hidden or secret, covert, secondary; (esp. of a reason for a particular action) secret

- ☑ **Syn.** concealed, secret, underhanded
- * **Ant.** transparent, see-through, clear
- ☒ He claims that his attempts to depose the leader were only for the good of the party but I suspect he may have had some ulterior motive.

UMBRAGE N.

to take umbrage, to feel insulted, to feel upset or annoyed

- ☑ **Syn.** offense, pique, indignation
- ☒ The minister took umbrage to the article.

UMPTEN Adj.

very large number, many

- ☒ I have reminded them umpteen number of times but to no avail.

UNABASHED Adj.

not ashamed, blatant, barefaced, shameless, impudent, without any worry about possible criticism or embarrassment

- ☑ **Syn.** brazen, blatant, forward, brash
- * **Ant.** modest, coy, demure, dismayed
- ☒ He was quite unabashed in admitting his need for cheap publicity to retain his position in the film industry.

UNADULTERATED

absolutely pure

- ☑ **Syn.** undiluted, original
- * **Ant.** degrade, debase
- ☒ Only bottles containing drinking water that is unadulterated with chemicals should be labelled "pure".

UNANIMITY

state of total agreement or unity

- ☑ **Syn.** accord, harmony
- * **Ant.** disagreement, division
- ☒ The unanimity of the council on this issue was surprising; I never thought they'd be able to agree on it.

UNAPPEALING

unattractive, unpleasant

- ☑ **Syn.** uninviting, uninteresting
- * **Ant.** attractive, fascinating
- ☒ The fish dish looked so unappealing that Jitendra could not bring himself to taste it.

UNBRIDLED Adj.

which is not controlled, free, excessive, unrestrained, violent

- ☑ **Syn.** uninhibited, unconcealed
- * **Ant.** contained, limited, enclosed
- ☒ Unbridled constructions are turning cities into ghettos.

UNCANNY Adj.

mysterious, astonishing, strange, bizarre, strange or mysterious, difficult or impossible to explain

- ☑ **Syn.** eerie, weird, strange, mysterious
- ☒ It's uncanny how much you and Radhika look like sisters.

UNCONSCIONABLE

unscrupulous, shockingly unfair or unjust

- ☑ **Syn.** immoral, unprincipled
- * **Ant.** ethical, acceptable
- ☒ The president's betrayal of his employees who had worked hard to get him elected was unconscionable.

UNCOUTH Adj.

rude, impolite, audacious; lacking grace, politeness and a pleasant appearance; rude and unpleasant

- ☑ **Syn.** boorish, coarse, uncivilised
- * **Ant.** sophisticated, polite, courteous
- ☒ An uncouth marketing manager will soon get the boot.

UNCTUOUS Adj.

oily, bland, insincerely suave; full of praise, interest, friendliness, etc. that is unpleasant because it is false

- ☑ **Syn.** sycophantic, grovelling, creepy
- ☒ The salesman was unctuous and glib, hoping to sell us his products.

UNDERHAND Adj.

crafty, crooked, deceptive, done secretly and sometimes dishonestly, in order to achieve an advantage

- ☑ **Syn.** devious, dishonest
- * **Ant.** aboveboard
- ☒ The underhand dealings of bankers, bureaucrats and brokers led to the Bombay Bank scam.

UNDERMINE

to sabotage, thwart

- ☑ **Syn.** threaten, compromise
- * **Ant.** enhance, improve
- ☒ Rumours of his infidelity undermined the star's marriage, and it eventually ended in divorce.

UNDERScore V.

accentuate, highlight, focus

- ☑ **Syn.** underline, emphasise
- ☒ Underscoring the need for greater transparency in stock trading, the minister launched the BOLT on the BSE.

UNDERWRITE V.

to insure, give guarantee for, certify, endorse

- Syn.** guarantee, countersign, fund
- If a company underwrites an insurance policy, someone's property, etc., they have an agreement to pay out money in case of damage or loss.

UNDULATE V. UNDULATING Adj.

move with a wavelike motion

- The crowd was undulating behind him, as he led them in an unusual walking prayer.

UNEQUIVOCAL Adj.

clear, easily understood, unambiguous; total or (expressed) without any doubt

- Syn.** explicit, obvious, definite
- * **Ant.** equivocal, vague, unclear
- The union's unequivocal rejection of the latest pay offer will almost certainly lead to further strikes.

UNFLINCHING Adj.

solemn, stoic, unemotional, dignified; not frightened of or trying to avoid danger or unpleasantness

- Syn.** unwavering, constant, resolute
- Only with an unflinching desire for perfection can an artist create masterpieces.

UNGAINLY Adj.

awkward, graceless in movement

- Syn.** clumsy, lumbering, mean
- * **Ant.** elegant, refined, poised
- He is in this ungainly position out of his own doing.

UNIMPEACHABLE Adj.

blameless and exemplary; (of a person's character) completely honest and moral

- Syn.** faultless, flawless, impeccable
- * **Ant.** shameful, disgraceful, appalling
- He has an unimpeachable record of services to the cause of the charity.

UNISON N.

unity of pitch, complete accord, in unison, together; at the same time

- Syn.** agreement, harmony, unanimity
- * **Ant.** dispute, argument, friction
- The international community must act in unison if we are to find a lasting resolution to this problem.

UNKEMPT Adj.

dishevelled, with uncared-for appearance

- Syn.** tousled, messy, scruffy
- * **Ant.** tidy, neat, shipshape, organised
- He always looks unkempt, as if he's just got out of bed.

UNMITIGATED Adj.

unrelieved; immoderate; absolute

- Syn.** categorical, complete, total
- * **Ant.** partial, limited
- His unmitigated enthusiasm lifted our spirits.

UNPRECEDENTED Adj.

novel; unparallel

- Syn.** extraordinary, unrivalled, exceptional
- * **Ant.** normal, common
- In an unprecedented move, the company decided to close the loss-making factories.

UNRAVEL V.

disentangle, solve; (of a piece of woollen or woven cloth) to separate into threads

- Syn.** loosen, untangle, unstitch
- She takes a very long time to unravel her tangled hair.

UNREQUITED Adj.

not reciprocated

- She suffers in unrequited love.

UNRULY Adj.

wild, with no discipline, defiant; difficult to control and not tending to obey rules

- Syn.** boisterous, disobedient, wild
- * **Ant.** well-behaved, dutiful, polite
- The unruly crowd of demonstrators suddenly turned riotous as the police appeared.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. transgress | a. everywhere at once |
| 2. transient | b. not lasting long |
| 3. trepidation | c. fear |
| 4. turpitude | d. wickedness |
| 5. ubiquitous | e. violate |

1.(e) 2.(b) 3.(c) 4.(d) 5.(a)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

UNSEEMLY Adj.

unbecoming, indecent

- ☑ **Syn.** rude, uncouth, indecorous
- * **Ant.** proper, correct, suitable, right
- ☒ Due to an unseemly act of his, he has earned a bad name.

UNTENABLE Adj.

undefensible, not able to be maintained

- ☑ **Syn.** refutable, flimsy, implausible
- * **Ant.** tenable, defensible
- ☒ The witness gave such an untenable account of her stand that the judge ruled it as inadmissible.

UNTOWARD Adj.

unfortunate, annoying; unexpected and inconvenient or unpleasant

- ☑ **Syn.** troublesome, awkward
- * **Ant.** appropriate, suitable, right, apt
- ☒ Unless anything untoward happens we should be there just before midday.

UNWARRANTED Adj.

which is not justified, unreasonable, undue, lacking a good reason, unnecessary

- ☑ **Syn.** gratuitous, needless, uncalled for
- * **Ant.** needed, essential, required
- ☒ Celebrities have to face unwarranted intrusion into their private lives.

UNWIELDY Adj.

large and awkward; (of an object) difficult to move or handle because it is heavy

- ☒ All PSUs are not unwieldy; some are market-friendly and flexible too.

UNWITTING Adj.

unintentional, not knowing, without knowing or planning

- ☑ **Syn.** ignorant, innocent, unconscious
- * **Ant.** cautious, cagey, circumspect
- ☒ The two women claimed they were the unwitting victims of a drugs dealer who planted a large quantity of heroin in their luggage.

UPBRAID V.

to scold severely

- ☑ **Syn.** tell off, reproach, rebuke
- ☒ In her newspaper articles she consistently upbraided those in authority who overstepped their limits.

UPROARIOUS Adj.

marked by commotion, extremely funny, very noisy

- ☑ **Syn.** hilarious, a hoot, hysterical
- ☒ The New Year's party was an uproarious affair and a huge success.

UPSHOT N.

outcome; something which happens as a result of other actions, events or decisions

- ☑ **Syn.** result, effect, end
- ☒ The upshot of the discussions is that there will be no redundancies.

URBANE Adj.

sophisticated, cultured; (esp. of a man) confident, comfortable and polite in social situations

- ☑ **Syn.** suave, refined, cultured, stylish
- * **Ant.** simple, primitive, unrefined
- ☒ The so-called urbane class of our society does not know the ground realities of our country.

USURP V.

to take possession by force; to take (control or a position of power), esp. without having the right to

- ☑ **Syn.** seize, take, assume, grab
- * **Ant.** admit defeat, submit, yield
- ☒ The land mafia are usurping the open plots in our cities.

UTILITARIAN Adj.

practical, accessible, within reach

- ☑ **Syn.** useful, practical, functional
- * **Ant.** ineffective, futile, inadequate
- ☒ A utilitarian attitude in life does not bring happiness.

UTOPIA N.

an imaginary ideal place; (the idea of) a perfect society in which everyone works well with each other and is happy

- ☒ To think of eradication of poverty in India is to chase utopia.

UXORIOUS Adj.

submissively fond of a wife

- ☒ He was so uxorious that he thought it an honour to be called henpecked.

“V”

VACILLATE V.

to waver, to hesitate; to be uncertain what to do or to change frequently between two opinions

- ☑ **Syn.** hesitate, dither, fluctuate
- * **Ant.** decide, choose, determine, elect
- ☒ The vacillating attitude of the government on PSU privatisation will help no one.

VACUOUS Adj.

with no meaning, silly, vacant, not expressing or showing intelligent thought or purpose

- ☑ **Syn.** empty-headed, stupid, inane
- * **Ant.** bright, brilliant, intense, dazzling
- ☒ Family planning and poverty reduction slogans are becoming vacuous in our country.

VAGARY N.

oddity, whim, impulse, caprice

- ☒ Vagaries of the monsoon still determine India's fate.

VAGRANT Adj.

wandering, gypsy, nomadic, a person who is poor and does not have a home or job,

- ☑ **Syn.** nomadic, itinerant, roaming
- ☒ Vagrants and drunks hang around the bars at the end of the street.

VAINGLORIOUS Adj.

boastful; excessively conceited

- ☒ The actress turned out to be vainglorious and arrogant in attitude.

VALIDATE

to authorise, certify, confirm

- ☑ **Syn.** substantiate, authenticate
- * **Ant.** invalidate, reject
- ☒ The employee validated my guest pass so that I could enter the park for free.

VALOUR N.

bravery

- ☒ Rani Lakshmi Bai's valour in the battle against the British has gone down in history.

VAMPIRE N.

ghostly being that sucks the blood of living beings

- ☑ **Syn.** leech, parasite, tick, mosquito
- ☒ The most famous vampire is Count Dracula of Transylvania in the stories of Bram Stoker.

VANGUARD N.

forerunners; advance forces, esp. an army or figuratively, who are making changes or developments

- ☑ **Syn.** frontline, precursor, forerunner
- ☒ Our environment group has always been in the vanguard of all movements related to environment and ecology.

VANITY N.

pride, disdain, narcissism,

- ☑ **Syn.** conceit, arrogance, egotism, airs
- * **Ant.** humility, humbleness, meekness
- ☒ The entire cosmetic industry survives because of vanity.

VANQUISH

to conquer, defeat

- ☑ **Syn.** beat, annihilate
- * **Ant.** create, build
- ☒ Napoleon was vanquished by the English at the Battle of Waterloo.

VAPID Adj.

dull, absentminded, silly, boring; having no imagination or excitement

- ☑ **Syn.** insipid, lifeless, weak, watery, flat
- * **Ant.** lively, sparkling, vivacious
- ☒ Audiences will never listen to vapid presentations or talks.

VARIEGATED Adj. , VARIATION Adj.

Many-coloured; a pattern of different colours, especially yellow, white or red, on the leaves of a plant

- ☑ **Syn.** spotted, dappled, flecked
- * **Ant.** uniform, identical, even, regular
- ☒ The gypsies wear variegated clothes.

VAUNTED Adj.

boasted; bragged; highly publicised

- ☑ **Syn.** flaunt, brag, extol
- ☒ The much-vaunted movie failed to get even a decent first week collection.

VEER V.

change in direction

- ☑ **Syn.** turn, swerve, change direction
- ☒ Manic depressives may veer back and forth between periods of manic behaviour and normality.

VEGETATE V.

live in a monotonous way, to live in a way that lacks physical and mental activity

- ☑ **Syn.** sit around, stagnate, loaf, kill time
- ☒ A report has shown that children spend too much time vegetating in front of the TV when they come home from school.

VEHEMENCE N. , VEHEMENT N.

forceful way; fierce, furious

- ☑ **Syn.** intensity, fervour, violence
- * **Ant.** indifference, unresponsiveness, apathy, unconcern
- ☒ The vehemence of the Narmada Bachao Andolan took the government by surprise.

VEHEMENTLY

strongly, urgently

- ☑ **Syn.** forcefully, frantically
- ★ **Ant.** in a laid-back manner, impassively
- ☒ Ritika vehemently denied the accusation that she had cheated in the test.

VENAL Adj.

who will take a bribe, fraudulent, evil

- ☒ The whole of the government machinery has apparently become venal.

VENDETTA N.

private quarrel between families

- ☑ **Syn.** quarrel, dispute, hostilities
- ☒ He saw himself as the victim of a personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies.

VENEER N.

thin layer, cover; a thin layer of decorative wood or plastic used to cover a cheaper material

- ☑ **Syn.** facing, finish, surface, layer
- ☒ Lamination gave it a fine veneer.
- ☒ She managed to hide her corrupt dealings under a veneer of respectability.

VENERABLE Adj. **VENERATE** V.

deserving high respect (due to age or wisdom)

- ☑ **Syn.** renowned, honoured, eminent
- ★ **Ant.** disreputable, dishonourable
- ☒ He was a venerable man, much sought after by various companies.

VENERATION

adoration, honour

- ☑ **Syn.** reverence, respect
- ★ **Ant.** insult, disdain
- ☒ In traditional Indian society, the young treat their elders with veneration.

VENIAL Adj.

forgivable, trivial, not serious and therefore easily forgivable

- ☒ The orthodoxy, narrow-mindedness and rigidity of the illiterates are venial but what about the literates?

VENOM N.

poison, toxin, bane, acrimony, ill will, malice; a poisonous liquid which some snakes, insects, etc. produce when biting or stinging

- ☑ **Syn.** poison, toxin, bane, malice, spite
- ★ **Ant.** antidote, cure, remedy, solution
- ☒ A vaccine has been created for people who are allergic to bee stings, which uses the venom extracted from bees.

VENT N.

small opening, outlet; a small opening which allows air, smoke or gas to enter or escape from an enclosed space

- ☑ **Syn.** expel, voice, emit, utter, declare
- ★ **Ant.** repress, stifle, restrain, constrain
- ☒ The closed vent in the cellar caused humidity.

VERACIOUS Adj. **VERACITY** N.

truthful, legitimate, factual; truthfulness

- ☑ **Syn.** trustworthy
- ★ **Ant.** deceitful, dishonest, lying
- ☒ She proposed his name for the promotion because of his veracity.

VERBATIM Adj.

word for word, using exactly the same words as were originally used

- ☑ **Syn.** precisely, literally, accurately
- ★ **Ant.** approximately, around, nearly
- ☒ He kept verbatim transcripts of discussions with his friends so he could use them in his next novel.

VERBIAGE N.

language which is very complicated and contains a lot of unnecessary words

- ☒ His explanation was wrapped up in so much technical verbiage that I simply couldn't understand it.

VERBOSE Adj.

using more words than necessary

- ☑ **Syn.** wordy, effusive, loquacious
- ★ **Ant.** taciturn, reticent, reserved
- ☒ He was notorious for being a verbose and rather tedious after-dinner speaker.

VERDANT

green with vegetation, inexperienced

- ☑ **Syn.** grassy, flourishing
- ★ **Ant.** experienced, barren
- ☒ He wandered deep into the verdant woods in search of mushrooms and edible flora.

VERIFIED

proven true

- ☑ **Syn.** substantiated, confirmed
- ★ **Ant.** refuted, denied
- ☒ Before you publish that information, please have it verified by the right authority.

VERISIMILITUDE N. **VERISIMILAR** Adj.

appearance of being true, likelihood

- ☒ She has included photographs and reproductions of letters in the book to lend verisimilitude to her story-telling.

VERITABLE Adj. **VERITY** N.

actual; not false or imaginary

- ☒ On stage, she is a veritable actress, dazzling the audience with her performance.

VERMIN

small creatures offensive to humans, worthless person

- ☑ **Syn.** obnoxious person, the hoi polloi
- ☒ Neeti called the exterminator to fumigate her vermin-infested apartment.

VERNACULAR N., Adj.

living language, natural style; the form of a language that a regional group of speakers use naturally

- Syn.** dialect, language, lingo, argot
- His lively vernacular style goes down well with the younger viewers.

VERNAL

related to spring

- * **Ant.** autumnal
- Bindu basked in the balmy vernal breeze, happy that winter was at last coming to an end.

VERSATILE

adaptable, all-purpose

- Syn.** flexible, multifaceted
- * **Ant.** rigid, limited
- This versatile little gadget can be used to dice vegetables, open cans, and even whip cream!

VERVE N.

enthusiasm, liveliness, great energy

- Syn.** vitality, energy, vigour, dash, life
- * **Ant.** lethargy, weariness, tiredness
- Her lectures were full of verve and wit which the students enjoyed immensely.

VESTIGE N.

trace, remains, shadow; a still existing small part or amount of something larger

- Syn.** mark, indication, hint, evidence
- There is no vestige of hope that the missing children will be found alive.

VETO V. to reject formally N. – rejection, dismissal

- Syn.** deny, turn down
- * **Ant.** approval, authorisation
- Fearful that the new law would be used to reduce her powers, the president vetoed it.

VEX N.

annoy; distress

- Syn.** irritate, enrage, nettle
- * **Ant.** placate, mollify, appease
- You will vex the teacher if you keep talking in the class.

VIABLE

workable, able to succeed or grow

- Syn.** feasible, possible
- * **Ant.** impracticable, improbable
- I don't think your plan to increase sales by sending free samples to every household is viable.

VICARIOUS Adj.

indirectly felt; experienced by watching, listening to or reading about the activities of other people.

- Syn.** explicit, shocking, vivid, juicy
- * **Ant.** bland, insipid, weak, tasteless
- They get a vicarious thrill from watching motor racing.

VICIOUS Adj.

evil, wild, violent, fierce, having or showing an intention or desire to hurt very badly

- Syn.** ferocious, inhuman, sadistic
- * **Ant.** cheerful, friendly, kind, happy
- A life of vice has a vicious end.

VICISSITUDE N.

variation in luck, change of fortune

- Vicissitude turns some to dust and others to men of determination.

VIE V.

contend; compete

- Syn.** contest, fight, grapple
- It is amusing to watch the antics of some stars as they vie for attention.

VIGILANT

attentive, watchful

- Syn.** observant, alert
- * **Ant.** negligent, inattentive
- Air traffic controllers must be vigilant in order to ensure that planes do not collide with one another.

VIGNETTE N.

picture; short literary sketch

- The star of yesteryears still looked stunning in her latest vignette.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. verbose | a. capable of living |
| 2. vernacular | b. annoy |
| 3. vestige | c. last trace |
| 4. vex | d. wordy |
| 5. viable | e. slang |

1. (d) 2. (e) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (a)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

VILE Adj.

extremely unpleasant, wicked, wretched, evil

- ☑ **Syn.** depraved, base, degraded, foul
- * **Ant.** high quality, superior, excellent
- ☒ He is a man of vile intentions.

VILIFY V. **VILIFICATION** N.

slander; to say or write unpleasant things about (someone or something)

- ☑ **Syn.** speak ill of, malign, denigrate
- * **Ant.** compliment, praise, tribute
- ☒ During elections, the candidates are busy vilifying each other in order to grab votes.

VIM

energy, enthusiasm

- ☑ **Syn.** verve, vigour
- * **Ant.** inability, incapacity
- ☒ The sprightly old woman, still full of vim and vigour, walked four miles every day.

VINDICATE V.

to justify, maintain, warrant, argue, to show to be free from guilt or blame

- ☑ **Syn.** claim, exonerate, defend, prove
- ☒ The CEO's faith in his manager was vindicated after the stupendous success of the new marketing plan.

VINDICATION

clearance from blame or suspicion, proof of truth

- ☑ **Syn.** amnesty, absolution
- * **Ant.** conviction, condemnation
- ☒ Many years after he was unjustly accused of treason, the new evidence provided ample vindication of his innocence.

VINDICTIVE Adj.

wanting to take revenge, spiteful, revengeful,

- ☑ **Syn.** malicious, bitter, mean
- * **Ant.** forgiving, compassionate, kind
- ☒ In the film 'Cape Fear,' a lawyer's family is threatened by a vindictive former prisoner.

VINTAGE N.

old, antique; group of things or people active during the same particular period; the wine made in a particular year

- ☑ **Syn.** period, age, epoch, traditional
- ☒ He possesses both vintage cars and vintage wine.

VIRILE Adj. , **VIRILITY** Adj.

manly, masculine, stalwart; strength (of a man, esp. a young man)

- ☒ In this role, Shahrukh is a virile tycoon bent on having his way.

VIRTUOSO N.

person skilled in an art, expert, master

- ☑ **Syn.** genius, performer, maestro
- ☒ Famous mainly for his wonderful voice, Kishore Kumar was also a virtuoso performer on screen and on stage.

VIRULENCE N. **VIRULENT** Adj.

great strength; extremely poisonous

- ☒ As a virulent critic of the ruling party, he has made himself very unpopular in certain circles.

VISAGE N.

appearance, expression, aspect, the face

- ☑ **Syn.** features, facade
- ☒ His stern visage concealed a soft and loving heart.

VISCERAL Adj.

felt in one's inner organs; based on deep feeling and emotional reactions rather than on reason or thought

- ☑ **Syn.** intuitive, animal, primeval, gut
- * **Ant.** factual, accurate, realistic
- ☒ The infection seems to be visceral.

VISCOUS

thick, syrupy, and sticky

- ☑ **Syn.** viscid, gluey
- * **Ant.** watery, free-flowing
- ☒ The viscous sap trickled slowly down the trunk of the tree.

VITIATE V.

spoil the effect of; make inoperative

Our economic growth has been vitiated by the rise in population.

VITREOUS Adj.

like glass

- ☒ The bizarre stone is vitreous in structure.

VITRIOLIC Adj.

very violent, rude, caustic

- ☑ **Syn.** spiteful, hurtful, acerbic, bitter
- * **Ant.** kind, type, style, sort, class
- ☒ He launched a vitriolic attack on the prime minister, accusing him of shielding corrupt friends.

VITUPERATE

to abuse verbally

- ☑ **Syn.** berate, condemn
- * **Ant.** praise, laud
- ☒ The crabby old man vituperated his wife for forgetting to buy his favourite breakfast cereal.

VITUPERATION N. **VITUPERATIVE** Adj.

abuse, insulting words; abusive, scolding

- ☒ When his proposal was rejected by the committee, he became more vituperative.

VIVACIOUS Adj.

lively, scintillating, attractively full of energy and enthusiasm

- ☑ **Syn.** cheerful, spirited, chirpy
- * **Ant.** relaxed, leisurely, lazy, lethargic
- ☒ Apart from being beautiful and savvy, an aspirant to beauty contests should be vivacious.

VIVID Adj.

impressive, expressive, very brightly coloured; (of descriptions, memories, etc.) producing very clear, powerful and detailed images in the mind

☑ **Syn.** bright, glowing, brilliant

* **Ant.** boring, dark, stupid, tedious

☒ The leader of the Antarctica expedition gave vivid descriptions of the trip.

VIXEN N.

female fox, ill-tempered woman

☒ It is surprising that such a knowledgeable, sober, intelligent woman in the office can turn into a vixen at home.

VOCIFEROUS Adj.

clamorous, noisy, repeatedly expressing opinions and complaints in speech

☑ **Syn.** voluble, enthusiastic, noisy

* **Ant.** quiet, calm, silence, hush, peace

☒ Local activist groups have become increasingly vociferous as the volume of traffic passing through the village has grown.

VOGUE N.

fashion, popularity, craze

☑ **Syn.** trend, rage, mode, fad, style

☒ Body piercing is out of vogue these days.

VOID

emptiness, vacuum

☑ **Syn.** empty space, blankness

* **Ant.** filled up, stuffed

☒ The astronauts released their shuttle's ancillary rockets and watched them drift off into the void.

VOLITION N.

wish, initiative, ambition, the power to make your own decisions

☑ **Syn.** decision, desire, preference

* **Ant.** compulsion, bullying, cruelty

☒ The minister wished it to be known that he had left the cabinet of his own volition.

VOLLEY

flight of missiles, round of gunshots

☑ **Syn.** torrent, barrage

☒ The troops fired a volley at the enemy, but they could not be sure how many of the bullets found their targets.

VOLUBLE N.

who speaks easily with a lot of words

☑ **Syn.** fluent, articulate, verbose

☒ Only voluble comperes can be successful in TV talk shows .

VOLUMINOUS

large, having great volume

☑ **Syn.** sizeable, immense

* **Ant.** tiny, tight-fitting

☒ The bride's voluminous dress trailed several yards behind her as she walked down the aisle.

VORACIOUS Adj.

greedy, gluttonous, hungry

☑ **Syn.** avid, big, hungry, ravenous

☒ Usually, voracious readers find it easy to clear CAT.

VORTEX N.

whirlwind, whirlpool, centre of turbulence, predicament into which one is inexorably plunged

☑ **Syn.** eddy, whirlpool, current

☒ The vortex of a tornado tends to be very calm.

VULNERABLE Adj.

weak, unprotected; physically, emotionally or mentally hurt easily; influenced or attacked

☑ **Syn.** susceptible, weak, defenseless

* **Ant.** impervious, impermeable, solid

☒ The troops were in a vulnerable position, completely exposed to attack from the air.

VYING Adj.

rival, competing, opposing

☒ MNCs are vying for the mega projects in our country.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. vicarious | a. upheaval |
| 2. vicissitude | b. clear from suspicion |
| 3. vilify | c. seeking revenge |
| 4. vindicate | d. defame |
| 5. vindictive | e. experienced through another |

1.(e) 2.(a) 3.(d) 4.(b) 5.(c)

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

“W”, “X”, “Y” and “Z”

W

WAFFLE N.

to talk or write a lot without giving any useful information or any clear answers

- ☑ **Syn.** gobbledygook, rubbish
- ☒ The President has been waffling on this issue, probably because he is still uncertain about what to do.

WAFT V.

to carry or float gently or lightly through the air or over the water

- ☑ **Syn.** drift, float, fan, blow, breath
- ☒ Sounds wafting across the lake create a romantic feeling.

WAGGISH Adj.

mischievous; humorous; tricky

- ☑ **Syn.** roguish, playful, comical
- ☒ His waggish attitude lands him in trouble with the authorities.

WAIF N.

homeless child or animal; a child or animal which does not receive enough care

- ☑ **Syn.** stray, soul, thing, urchin, orphan
- ☒ The hostel is designed to give a bed for the night to homeless people and other waifs and strays.

WAIVE V.

to give up a claim to, postpone, delay; to not demand (something you have a right to)

- ☑ **Syn.** surrender, give up, put aside
- * **Ant.** put into effect, implement, inflict
- ☒ They have waived the fine in view of your past record.

WALLOW V.

roll in, indulge in, become helpless; to lie or roll about slowly in deep wet earth, sand or water

- ☑ **Syn.** flounder, stumble, lurch, stagger
- ☒ I wallowed through the muddy ravine up to the hill.

WAN Adj.

pale, colourless, sickly; (of a person's face) paler than usual and tired-looking

- ☑ **Syn.** pallid, ashen, feeble, weak
- ☒ He would remember the child's wan face at the window, waving at him.

WANE V.

grow gradually smaller, weaken in strength or influence

- ☑ **Syn.** diminish, get smaller, disappear
- * **Ant.** shine, buff, expand, enlarge
- ☒ By the late seventies the band's popularity was beginning to wane.

WANGLE V.

wiggle out, fake, achieve by trickery

- ☑ **Syn.** contrive, manipulate, devise
- ☒ The students decided either to wangle an invitation or gatecrash the New Year's party.

WANTON Adj.

unrestrained, wilfully malicious, unchaste

- ☑ **Syn.** gratuitous, reckless, wilful
- * **Ant.** justified, correct, acceptable
- ☒ He spends whatever he earns in a wanton manner.

WARRANT V. WARRANTED Adj.

justify, authorise; to make (a particular activity) necessary

- ☑ **Syn.** merit, deserve, demand, justify
- ☒ The responsibility of the post warrants my twenty-four hour readiness for the job.

WARRANTY

guarantee of a product's soundness

- ☑ **Syn.** assurance, promise
- ☒ I can't believe that the warranty on this car ran out two days before it broke down.

WARY Adj.

very cautious, not completely trusting or certain about something or someone

- ☑ **Syn.** cautious, distrustful, guarded
- * **Ant.** slapdash, casual, uncaring
- ☒ She's been a bit wary of dogs ever since one bit her as a child.

WASTREL N.

profligate, one who does nothing positive with one's life

- ☑ **Syn.** spendthrift, compulsive shopper
- ☒ His son turned to be a wastrel who drank and gambled away the family fortune.

WAX V.

increase, grow

- ☑ **Syn.** polish, shine, buff, increase
- ☒ Due to her hardwork and zeal, her career was always waxing.

WAYLAY V.

ambush, lie in wait

- ☑ **Syn.** accost, intercept, surprise, stop
- ☒ The underworld mafia of Mumbai can waylay and kill anybody anytime.

WAYWARD

erratic, unrestrained, reckless

- ☑ **Syn.** wilful, unmanageable
- * **Ant.** well-behaved, docile
- ☒ Mr. Sharma's wayward son squandered his inheritance and got into trouble with the law.

WEAN V.

accustom a baby not to nurse, give up a cherished activity

- ☒ She decided to wean herself away from the habit of taking tea frequently.

WEATHER V.

endure the effects of weather or other forces, the conditions in the air above the Earth such as wind, rain or temperature

- ☒ **Syn.** climate, conditions, withstand
- ☒ He has learnt to weather the vagaries of both climate and fortune.

WELTER N.

turmoil, bewildering jumble; a large and esp. not well organised number (of things)

- ☒ **Syn.** flurry, jumble, mass, confusion
- ☒ The welter of complicated process and paperwork precludes high collection of income tax revenues.

WHEEDLE V.

cajole, coax, deceive by flattery; to try to persuade (someone) to do (something) by praising them or being intentionally charming

- ☒ **Syn.** inveigle, charm, persuade, talk
- ☒ She's one of those children who can wheedle you into giving her anything she wants.

WHELP N.

young of a carnivorous animal like a wolf, dog, tiger etc.

- ☒ It will be very difficult to look after the whelp as a pet.

WHET V.

sharpen, excite, stimulate, arouse

- ☒ **Syn.** sharpen, file, increase, arouse
- ☒ I read a brief extract of his new novel on the train and it has whetted my appetite for the book.

WHIFF N.

puff or gust of air, scent etc., hint, a brief smell, carried on a current of air

- ☒ **Syn.** smell, aroma, scent, hint, trace
- ☒ He starts working as a detective on the slightest whiff of a mystery.

WHIMSICAL Adj. WHIMSY N.

capricious, fanciful; unusual and strange in a way that might be amusing or annoying

- ☒ **Syn.** fanciful, capricious, unusual
- ☒ He was a whimsical guy, constantly changing his priorities in life.

WHIT N.

smallest speck

- ☒ **Syn.** scrap, speck, shred
- * **Ant.** overabundance, profusion
- ☒ His absence didn't make a whit of difference to the group.

WHITTLE V.

cut off bits; to make (something) out of a piece of wood by cutting off small thin pieces

- ☒ **Syn.** carve, cut, shape, fashion
- ☒ He whittled a piece from the bark of the tree.

WILFUL Adj.

intentional, headstrong; determined to do exactly as one wants, even if it is known to be wrong

- ☒ **Syn.** stubborn, obstinate, unruly
- * **Ant.** instinctive, spontaneous, reflex
- ☒ The present crisis is the result of years of wilful neglect by the council.

WILY Adj.

cunning, artful; (of a person) clever

- ☒ **Syn.** crafty, sly, devious
- * **Ant.** open, unlock, begin, start
- ☒ In money matters, she is very wily.

WINCE V.

shrink back, flinch, to show pain briefly and suddenly in the face

- ☒ **Syn.** flinch, cringe, start, make a face
- ☒ It makes me wince even thinking about eye operations.

WINDFALL N.

fallen fruit, unexpected lucky event

- ☒ **Syn.** bonus, boon, extra, premium
- ☒ The inheritance was a windfall for him.

WINNOW V.

sift, separate good parts from bad

- ☒ After several rounds of talks, they winnowed down the list of candidates to three.

WINSOME Adj.

agreeable, gracious, engaging; (esp. of people) attractive and pleasing

- ☒ **Syn.** charming, pleasant, endearing
- * **Ant.** repellant, disgusting, revolting
- ☒ By his winsome approach, he made friends wherever he went.

WISPY Adj.

thin, slight, barely discernible

- ☒ **Syn.** feathery, fine
- ☒ Her wispy hair was all ruffled in the wind.

WISTFUL Adj.

vaguely longing, sadly pensive

- ☒ **Syn.** melancholy, reflective
- * **Ant.** satisfied, content, pleased
- ☒ As his granddaughter talked about her life in the theatre, he began to grow wistful about his own days as an actor.

WITHER V.

shrivel, decay; (to cause) to become weak and dry and decay

- ☒ **Syn.** wilt, shrink, droop, fade
- * **Ant.** bloom, blossom, flower, flourish
- ☒ Plants can wither both in strong sunlight and with excessive watering.

WITHHOLD V.

refuse to give; hold back

- ☑ **Syn.** stop, retain, hide
- * **Ant.** give in, divulge
- ☒ We decided to withhold the wages till the workers completed their assigned tasks.

WITLESS Adj.

foolish, idiotic, stupid or lacking intelligence

- ☑ **Syn.** pointless, unintelligent, clueless
- ☒ His witless statements show that he is a foolish man.

WITTICISM N.

witty saying, facetious remark, a remark that is both clever and humorous

- ☑ **Syn.** quip, joke, clever remark
- ☒ The best man's speech contained all sorts of witticisms about the bridegroom.

WIZARDRY N.

sorcery, magic; the skill of a wizard or figuratively clever or surprising ways of doing things

- ☒ Using their new high-tech wizardry, the police were able to locate the owners of the stolen property within hours.

WIZENED Adj.

dried up, shrivelled, withered

- ☑ **Syn.** wrinkled, lined, aged
- * **Ant.** smooth, flat, soft, charming
- ☒ Even at 70, he has not wizened.

WOEFUL Adj. WOE N.

mournful, pathetic, melancholy; very bad or (of something bad or unpleasant) very great or extreme

- ☑ **Syn.** unhappy, doleful, sorrowful
- * **Ant.** cheerful, happy, jolly, smiling
- ☒ When I saw her woeful face, I knew she had bad news.

WONT N.

custom, practice, habit

- ☑ **Syn.** accustomed, inclined, routine
- ☒ The voters are wont to change their mind at the last minute.

WOO V.

lure, solicit; to attempt to obtain the support of (someone) by persuasion

- ☑ **Syn.** court, entice, pursue, flatter
- * **Ant.** dishearten, dissuade, deter
- ☒ The party has been trying to woo the voters with promises of electoral reform.

WRANGLE N.

argument; dispute (esp. one which continues for a long period of time)

- ☑ **Syn.** argue, dispute, quarrel, battle
- ☒ The joint venture ended in a legal wrangle between the two companies.

WRATH N.

great anger

- ☑ **Syn.** rage, fury
- ☒ He incurred the wrath of many people in the acting world by saying there was a marked lack of talented young actors.

WREAK V.

inflict, to cause (something) to happen in a violent and often uncontrolled way

- ☑ **Syn.** cause, do, inflict
- ☒ I knew he would wreak his vengeance when he was out of the prison.

WRENCH V.

to twist or pull with force, take by violence

- ☑ **Syn.** pull, tug, jerk, twist, seize, snatch
- ☒ His hands had been tied behind his back but he managed to wrench one hand free and untie himself.

Anatomy

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

AMBULATORY	:	able to walk or move about
DEGLUTITION	:	the act or process of swallowing food
HYPERTROPHY	:	abnormally large growth of a bodily organ
INCONTINENCE	:	the inability to control one's bodily urges and functions
LACUNA	:	cavity, hole or gap in a bone (or in a plan's cellular tissue or a rock)
MANDIBLE	:	the principle bone of the lower jaw
SOMATIC	:	pertaining to the body
TUMOR	:	a swelling of a part of body, caused by an abnormal growth of tissue
ULCER	:	an open sore on body (internal or external) caused by break in skin or mucous membrane
VESICLE	:	any fluid-filled sac in the body

WRIT N.

legal paper ordering people to do or not to do something; citation, warrant

- Syn.** summons, injunction
- There have been at least seven writs issued against him for late payment of bills.

WRITHE V.

to distort the body, twitch, contort in pain

- Syn.** squirm, wriggle, struggle, thrash
- She writhed at the thought of the horrific scene.

WRY Adj.

twisted, with a humorous twist; showing that you find a bad or difficult situation slightly amusing

- Syn.** ironic, cynical, sardonic, dry
- The captain had a wry smile on his face as the team caved in yet again despite his brilliant individual performance.

X**XENOPHOBIA** N.

dislike and hatred for foreigners; extreme dislike or fear of foreigners, their customs, their religions etc.

- Syn.** chauvinism, racism
- * **Ant.** broad-mindedness, acceptance
- Xenophobic tendencies of the locals were well exploited by the politicians.

XYLOGRAPHY

wood engraving, especially of an early period

- In the modern era of computerisation, xylography is becoming extinct.

XYLOPHONE N.

a musical instrument consisting of flat wooden bars of different lengths hit with a pair of sticks

- He plays the xylophone beautifully.

Y**YACHT** N.

sailing boat, cruiser, craft, vessel, a boat with sails and sometimes an engine

- Syn.** ship, cruiser, dinghy, ferry, craft
- More than 800 yachts from 26 classes are racing at Cowes this year.

YARD – backyard, workshop

- Syn.** courtyard, factory
- After all the passengers had alighted, the train was moved to the yard for cleaning and overhauling.

YARN – thread used for weaving

- Syn.** strand, string
- Sweaters are made from yarns of wool.

YEN N.

desire, appetite, craving, Japanese currency, a feeling of intense desire

- Syn.** urge, desire, craving, hankering
- I have a yen for mountains and snow.

YELP – shriek, cry out with pain

- Syn.** screech, squeal
- When the dog was hit with a large stone, it yelped in pain.

YEOMAN N.

farmer with his own land; a man who was not a servant and owned and cultivated an area of land

- He was no slave but an yeoman, humble despite his riches.

YOKE V.

join together, unite, a wooden bar which is fastened over the necks of two animals

- Syn.** repression, oppression, burden
- All these different political elements have somehow been yoked together to form a new alliance.

YOKEL N.

country bumpkin, a stupid or awkward person who lives in the countryside rather than a town

- Syn.** Oaf, lout boor
- In his school days his classmates took him to be a yokel.

YORE N.

time past, of a long time ago

- Homer's *Iliad* is an epic of the yore.

Z**ZANY** Adj.

absurd, preposterous, mad, crazy

- Syn.** madcap, wacky, screwball
- Many consider time travel to be a zany idea.

ZEALOT N.

enthusiast, fanatic, crusader, a person who has very strong opinions about something and tries to make other people have them too

- Syn.** supporter, believer, advocate
- * **Ant.** sceptic, cynic, doubter
- The irrational religious zealots have shunned all approaches to peaceful talks.

ZEALOUS Adj.

fiery, loyal, enthusiastic, eager

- Syn.** keen, passionate, extreme
- * **Ant.** apathetic, uninterested, droopy
- He has remained a zealous supporter of the government's policies.

ZENITH N.

apex, acme, climax, crescendo, peak

☑ **Syn.** peak, summit, pinnacle, top

* **Ant.** nadir, bottom

☞ The newspaper reached its zenith in the 1960s but has since declined.

ZEPHYR N.

the west wind, a mild gentle wind or breeze

☑ **Syn.** waft, gust, puff of air, draft

☞ The zephyr, they say, brings romance with it.

ZEST N.

enthusiasm, zeal, passion, thrill, eagerness, energy, interest

☑ **Syn.** keenness, gusto, relish, appetite

* **Ant.** apathy, lethargy, boredom, ennui

☞ After last week's defeat, the team seems to have recovered some of its zest.

ZING N.

spirit, sparkle, liveliness, vigour, energy, a quality that makes something interesting or exciting; enthusiasm or energy

☑ **Syn.** vitality, dynamism, vigour

* **Ant.** apathy, lethargy, laziness, ennui

☞ A bit of lemon juice will add zing to the sauce.

ZILCH N.

zero, nothing, none, no

☑ **Syn.** zip, nil

☞ Avarice and litigation reduced his business to zilch.

ZOOLOGIST – scientist who studies animals

☞ The zoologist spent much of his career studying the social interaction among a group of chimpanzees.

Psychology

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

ANACLITIC	: dependent on another person
CATAPLEXY	: a sudden paralysis of all voluntary movement, resulting in a collapse of the entire body
CAPRICIOUS	: given to sudden & unaccountable changes of mood or behaviour
EMPATHY	: the ability to participate in another person's feelings and experiences and to understand them
EUPHORIA	: a feeling of well-being happiness.
GESTALT	: unified whole, especially the human psyche, having properties distinct from the sum of its parts
LUDIC	÷ pertaining to play and playful curiosity
PLACEBO	: a treatment that has no effect expect in the patient's own mind
SUBLIMATE	: to express repressed desires or wishes in acceptable forms
SURROGATE	: a substitute