

LINKING UP THE WORDS (VOCAB)

'A'

ABATE (v)

- Cue :** **A B A T E** → **bate** – 'to reduce, to lessen in intensity'
- Mean :** (1) to make less in amount, degree, force
- Ex :** Rather than leaving immediately, they waited for the storm to abate.
- Mean :** (2) **bated**: holding your breath in fear or excitement; anxiously
- Ex :** We watched with bated breath as the killer in the movie crept up behind the unsuspecting heroine.
- Syn :** Decrease; Ebb; Lay Back; Lessen; Mellow Out; Quell; Recede; Reduce; Slacken; Slack off; Subdue; Subside; Wane
- Ant :** Amplify; Enhance; Increase; Intensify; Magnify; Rise; Surge
- RW :** **Debate; Rebate; abbatoir**

ABBREVIATE (v)

- Cue :** **A B B R E V I A T E** → **brev/brief** – 'to shorten'
- Mean :** shorten
- Ex :** (i) We abbreviate United Nations Organization as U.N.O.
(ii) The abbreviated version of the treatise will adequately serve your purpose.
- Syn :** Abridge; Compress; Condense; Nutshell; Summarize; Epitomize; Shorten
- Ant :** Broaden; Elongate; Enlarge; Expand; Increase; Inflate; Lengthen
- RW :** **Abridge** (to condense, summarize, shorten – Ex: The abridged version of the classic is not half as appealing as the original); **Brief; Briefing; Brevity; Breviary** (book containing daily hymns)

ABDICATE (v)

- Cue :** **A B D I C A T E** → lies in roots: **ab** → 'away from or apart' + **dict** – 'to speak, to say' (announce) → announce renunciation (a giving up formally or voluntarily)
- Mean :** (1) to give up a position of authority
- Ex :** Parents cannot abdicate their responsibilities
- Mean :** (2) to give up a throne
- Ex :** By abdicating his throne, the prince surprised everybody.
- Syn :** Abandon; Abjure; Abnegate; Disclaim; Renounce
- Ant :** Arrogate; Assert; Assume power; Claim; Maintain; Retain; Take charge; Usurp

ABDUCT (v)

- Cue :** **A B D U C T** → **ab** – 'away' + **duct** – 'lead' → to lead away i.e. to kidnap
- Mean :** to take away a person unlawfully; kidnaps
- Ex :** Kidnappers abduct people and hold them to ransom.
- Syn :** Carry off; Kidnap; Steal
- Ant :** Deliver; Liberate; Rescue; Salvage; Save
- RW :** **Conduct; Ductile** (malleable); **Induct; Product**

ABECEDARIAN (adj/n)

- Cue :** When you were trying to learn English alphabet in your nursery school, you were an abecedarian i.e. Related to 'ABC'. From this, we can generalize its second meaning - 'any beginner'
- Mean :** any beginner or novice

- Ex :** (i) He is an abecedarian, learning his first lessons in English in the nursery school.
(ii) An abecedarian has to be put through the paces before you expect him to deliver.
- Syn :** Apprentice; Beginner; Dabbler; Dilettante; Jackleg; Neophyte; Novice
- Ant :** Expert; Professional; Virtuoso

ABERRANT (adj)

- Cue :** **ABERRANT** → in the roots: **ab** → 'away' + **err** → 'to wander' i.e. → 'deviation'
- Mean :** (1) differing from what is normal or accepted or considered to be right
- Ex :** Given the aberrant nature of the data, we came to doubt the validity of the entire experiment.
- Mean :** (2) mental derangement or lapse
- Ex :** Survivors of a major catastrophe are likely to exhibit aberrations of behavior because of the trauma they have experienced.
- Syn :** Anomalous; Atypical; Deviant; Errant; Strange; Unconventional
- Ant :** Conventional; Natural; Normal; Typical; Usual
- RW :** **Errant** (roving or wandering; esp. in search of adventure); **Erring; Error; Itinerant** (traveling from place to place or on a circuit)

ABJECT (adj)

- Cue :** **ABJECT** → from **ject** – 'throw' i.e. thrown down
- Mean :** (1) hopelessly low, wretched; contemptible
- Ex :** The implementation of the proposal has turned out to be an abject failure.
- Mean :** (2) extremely or excessively humble, e.g. in making an apology or request
- Ex :** He made an abject apology for missing out on the important meeting last night.
- Syn :** (1) Miserable; Squalid
- Ant :** Comfortable; Prosperous
- Syn :** (2) Contemptible; Servile; Shameful
- Ant :** Dignified; Exalted; Noble
- RW :** **Conjecture** (inference); **Inject; Reject; Subject**

ABJURE (v)

- Cue :** **ABJURE** → **ab** – 'away' + **jure** – 'to swear' i.e. to swear to give up something publicly
- Mean :** (1) to give up (opinions) publicly (*n* – abjuration)
- Ex :** History is replete with instances when people were forced to abjure their disbelief in God.
- Mean :** (2) to give up (rights, allegiance, etc) on oath; renounce
- Ex :** The terrorists declared their intent to abjure violence.
- Syn :** Abdicate; Cede; Disclaim; Recant; Relinquish; Renounce; Repudiate
- Ant :** Arrogate; Assert; Assume Power; Claim; Usurp
- RW :** **Adjure** (urge solemnly); **Conjure** (to practice magic; to appeal to)

ABLUTION (n)

- Cue :** **ABLUTION** → **ab** – 'away or remove' + **Lut/Luv/Lav** – 'wash'
- Mean :** a washing of the body, esp. as a religious ceremony
- Ex :** After performing his ablutions in the river, he went to the temple.
- Syn :** Purgation; Purge; Purification; Ritual; Sanctification
- RW :** **Deluge** (a great flood; a heavy rainfall; an overwhelming amount of something); **Dilute; Diluvium; Lavatory**

ABNEGATION (n)

- Cue :** **A B N E G A T I O N** → **negate** – ‘to deny’/blacken
Mean : renunciation; self-sacrifice
Ex : Their act of abnegation to give up on their love was necessary to preserve the kingdom.
Syn : Abstinence; Contenance; Denial; Eschewal; Forbearance; Giving up; Relinquishment; Renouncement; Renunciation; Sacrifice; Self-Denial; Self - Renunciation; Stonewall
Ant : Acquiescence; Concession; Indulgence
RW : ‘Self-abnegation’ is often used instead of abnegation. **Denigrate; Negative; Negro**

ABOMINATE (v)

- Cue :** **A B O M I N A T E** → **ab** – ‘away or remove’ + **omen** – considering as a bad omen
Mean : (1) to feel hatred and disgust for; detest; dislike intensely
Ex : Civilized people abominate acts of violence.
Mean : (2) causing great dislike
Ex : Rape is an abominable crime.
Syn : Abhor; Despise; Detestable; Loathe; Odious; Reprehensible; Repugnant
Ant : Admire; Appreciate; Cherish; Adore; Love

ABORT (v)

- Cue :** **ab** – ‘away’ + **orient** – ‘to arise, appear’ i.e. disappear
Mean : (1) to cancel or stop before completion
Ex : Technical problems forced us to abort the mission.
Mean : (2) unsuccessful
Ex : Terrorists made an abortive attempt to seize power.
Syn : (1) Abandonment; Calling off; Termination
(2) Futile; Ineffectual
Ant : Fruitful; Full term; Successful; Triumphant; Unyielding; Victorious; Viable
RW : **Disorientation; Oriental**

ABRASIVE (adj)

- Cue :** Peg substances like sandpaper or emery, used to ‘**scrape off**’ for polishing
Mean : rude manner, causing annoyance or dislike
Ex : Just as abrasive cleaning powders can wear away a shiny finish, abrasive remarks can wear away a listener's patience.
Syn : Chafing; Jarring; Scraping; Strident
Ant : Soothing
RW : **Abrade** (to scrape or rub off due to friction – *Ex:* The waves abraded the rocks.)

ABROGATE (v)

- Cue :** **A B R O G A T E** → **ab** – ‘away’ + **rog** – ‘ask, to question a law’ i.e. to abolish
Mean : to cancel or repeal by authority; abolish
Ex : By abrogating the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), the government has conceded a long standing demand of the Association of Exporters.
Syn : Annul; Invalidate; Quash; Repeal; Rescind; Retract; Revoke; Withdrawal
Ant : Approve; Authorize; Enact; Institute; Legalize; Ratify; Sanction; Uphold
RW : **Interrogate; Prerogative** (a prior or exclusive right or privilege); **Rogatory** (Requesting information: Used especially of a request by one court to another, often foreign court for aid in obtaining desired information); **Surrogate** (a deputy or substitute)

ABSCESS (n)

- Cue :** **ABSCESS** → **ab** – ‘away’ + **cede** – ‘go’ – living tissue in the body yielding place to pus
Mean : an inflamed swelling in which pus has collected
Ex : A carelessly administered injection may even cause abscess formation.
Syn : Boil; Canker; Ulcer
RW : **Accession** (the act of coming to or attaining - a throne, power, etc); **Concede**; **Precede**; **Procedure**; **Recede**; **Secede**; **Accede**

ABSCOND (v)

- Cue :** **ABSCOND** → in the roots → **ab** – ‘away’ + **conc** – ‘hide’ i.e. to hide or conceal
Mean : to go away secretly because of having done something wrong
Ex : The burglar absconded under the cover of darkness.
Syn : Flee; Slip away; Steal off
RW : **Conceal**; **Ensconce** (hiding in safety); **Reconcile** (to make friendly again or win over to a friendly attitude); **Recondite** (obscure or concealed); **Reconnaissance** (an exploratory survey or examination, as in seeking out information about enemy positions or installations, or as in making a preliminary geological or engineering survey)

ABSOLVE (v)

- Cue :** **ABSOLVE** → **ab** – ‘from’ + **solve** – ‘free or to loosen’ i.e. to free from something → ‘pardon’ (an offense)
Mean : (1) to free from a debt, obligation, promise or ruling
 (2) to acquit as of guilt or wrong-doing; forgive
Ex : (i) The employer magnanimously absolved the retiring employee of his debt obligation.
 (ii) The judge absolved the accused of the murder charge.
Syn : (1) Excuse; Exempt
Ant : Bind; Oblige
Syn : (2) Amnesty; Condone; Exculpate; Exonerate; Pardon
Ant : Condemn; Convict or Blame; Inculpate; Indict

ABSONANT (adj)

- Cue :** **ABSONANT** → **ab** – ‘away’ or ‘apart’ + **son** – ‘sound’ + **ant** → sound not in harmony
Mean : discordant; dissonant
Ex : (i) The show was a complete flop as the absonant singer could not make an impact.
 (ii) Even absonant personalities may fall deeply in love with each other.
Syn : Harsh; Inharmonious; Strident; Tuneless
Ant : Consonant; Harmonious; Soft
RW : **Assonance**; **Consonant** (harmony); **Dissonant** (discordant); **Sonorous**

ABSTINENT (adj)

- Cue :** **ABSTINENT** → from ‘**abstin**’, you can remember ‘**abstain**’ i.e. doing without
Mean : refraining from or doing without certain foods, drinks or pleasures; denying one’s appetite completely
Ex : Roman Catholics observe abstinence from specific foods like meat on days of penitence.
Syn : Celibate; Chaste; Sober; Temperate; Virtuous
Ant : Indulgent; Intemperate

- RW : **Abstinent** differs slightly from **abstemious** in two respects:
- (1) It refers to all appetites and desires, whereas **abstemious** tends to refer only to food and drink, or even more specifically to alcoholic drink alone
 - (2) **Abstinent** suggests total self-denial; **abstemious** simply suggests moderation
 - (3) **Abstain** (to keep away)

ABYSMAL (adj)

- Cue : **A B Y S M A L** → **a** – 'without' + **bys** – 'bottom' i.e. without bottom. Abysmal frequently implies being hopelessly beyond correction or redemption
- Mean : very deep, bottomless, immeasurably bad / Resembling an abyss (An immeasurably deep chasm; Hell)
- Ex : (i) She was in tears seeing the abysmal wretchedness of the poor.
(ii) You need to put in lot of hard work. Your performance so far is abysmal.
- Syn : Endless; Immeasurable; Limitless
- Ant : Fathomable; Finite; Limited; Measurable; Slight
- RW : **Abyss**

ACCESS (n)

- Cue : **A C C E S S** → in the roots → **ac** – 'to' + **cess** – 'to go or move'
- Mean : (1) a way of approaching or reaching; to obtain or retrieve
- Ex : (i) This path is the only access to my farmhouse.
(ii) We asked the examiner in the end whether we could access the solutions to the test.
- Syn : Admittance; Entree; Introduction; Passage; Path; Way
- Ant : Egress; Outlet
- RW : **Accessible; Incessant** (Unstoppable); **Predecessor; Process; Recess; Success**
Accessory (additional; extra; helping in a secondary or subordinate way – Ex.: (i) The vacuum cleaner has several accessories. (ii) He is suspected to be an accessory to the jail-break)

ACCLAIM (n)

- Cue : **A C C L A I M** → **ac** – 'to' + **clam/claim** – 'cry out' i.e. utter aloud; often with surprise or joy
- Mean : (1) to greet with loud applause or approval; applaud
- Ex : The spectators acclaimed every victory of their team and decried every defeat.
- Mean : (2) to acknowledge or declare with enthusiastic approval
- Ex : He is the acclaimed authority on superconductors.
- Syn : Applause; Cheer; Citation; Commendation; Encomium; Eulogy
- Ant : Belittle; Billingsgate; Degrade; Disapprove; Disgrace; Disparage; Execrate; Odium; Vituperation;
- RW : **Clamor** (a loud outcry); **Exclamation; Proclamation; Reclamation**

ACCLIVITY (n)

- Cue : **A C C L I V I T Y** → **ac** – 'up' + **cliv** – 'slope'
- Mean : an upward slope of the ground; sharp upslope of a hill
- Ex : The car could not go up the acclivity in high gear.
- Syn : Ascent
- Ant : Declivity
- RW : **Declivity** (reducing); **Proclivity** (towards)

ACCRETION (n)

- Cue :** **ACCRETION** → **ac** – ‘to’ + **cret/cres** – ‘grow’
- Mean :** growth or increase in size by gradual external addition, fusion or inclusion
- Ex :** With the accretion of new shareholders the corpus of the company has grown.
- Syn :** Accumulation; Addition; Augmentation; Buildup; Growth; Increment; Raise; Rise
- Ant :** Dispersal; Scattering; Shrinkage
- RW :** **Concrete; Crescendo** (gradually increasing in loudness); **Crescent; Decrease; Increase**

ACEPHALOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **ACEPHALOUS** → in the roots → **a** – ‘without’ + **cephalous** – ‘head’
- Mean :** headless, without a leader
- Ex :** With the sudden demise of their party leader, their party is rendered acephalous.
- RW :** **Cephalic; Encephalitis**

ACERBIC (adj)

- Cue :** **ACERBIC** → in the roots → **acer/acri/acid** – ‘bitter, sour, sharp’
- Mean :** (1) sour or bitter in taste
(2) bitterness of speech and temper
- Ex :** The board meeting was marked with such acerbic statements that the Chairman got disgusted and went away.
- Syn :** Acidic; Biting; Caustic; Piquant; Severe; Sour; Tart; Vinegary
- Ant :** Bland; Honey; Sugary; Sweet
- RW :** **Acerbate** (to make harsh or bitter; don't link it with root *bate*); **Acidity; Acid; Acrimony**

ACME (n)

- Cue :** **ACME** → **Acme / acro** – ‘high’
- Mean :** the highest point of achievement; the highest point (of something) – peak
- Ex :** He has reached the acme of the corporate ladder through dint of hard work.
- Syn :** Apogee; Highest Point; Meridian; Summit; Ultimate; Vertex; Zenith
- Ant :** Bottom; Lowest; Nadir; Pit; Valley
- RW :** **Acrobat; Acrophobia** (an abnormal fear of being in high places); **Acropolis**

ACQUIESCE (v)

- Cue :** **ACQUIESCE** → **ac** – ‘to’ + **quies** – ‘quiet’ i.e. to accept quietly
- Mean :** to agree or consent quietly without protest, but without enthusiasm; often with *in*
- Ex :** Although she appeared to acquiesce to her employer's suggestions, I could tell she had reservations about the changes he wanted to make.
- Syn :** Complaint; Comply; Concur; Consent; Submit; Yielding
- Ant :** Adverse; Carp; Oppose; Rebel

ACQUIT (v)

- Cue :** **ACQUIT** → in the roots → **ac** – ‘to’ + **quit** – ‘free, clear’ i.e. to free from charge
- Mean :** (1) to free of charge, to declare innocent
- Ex :** The mafia leader was acquitted by the court for want of evidence.
- Mean :** (2) to act or behave in a certain way
- Ex :** You must acquit yourself with dignity.
- Syn :** (1) Absolve; Amnesty; Clear; Exculpate; Exonerate; Vindicate
(2) Act; Bear; Comport; Conduct
- Ant :** Convict

ACRIMONIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **A C R I M O N I O U S** → *acri* – ‘bitter, sharp’
Mean : bitterness of language or manner; ill feeling
Ex : (i) She replied with acrimony, showing rage.
(ii) They were great friends once; now the relations are acrimonious.
Syn : Bitter; Caustic; Mordant; Rancorous; Sarcastic; Scathing; Scornful
Ant : Agreeable; Amicable; Harmonious
RW : **Acerbic; Acrid**

ACRONYM (n)

- Cue :** **A C R O N Y M** → *acro* – ‘tip, end’ + *nym* – ‘name’ i.e. name formed from the tip of words
Mean : an abbreviation consisting of the first letters of each word in a phrase, pronounced as a word (used as an abbreviation)
Ex : (i) AIDS is an acronym for ‘Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome’.
(ii) NATO is the acronym for ‘North Atlantic Treaty organization’.
RW : **Acrobat; Acrophobia** (an abnormal fear of being in high places); **Acropolis** (the fortified upper part of an ancient Greek city that of Athens, on which the Parthenon was built)

ACUMEN (n)

- Cue :** **A C U M E N** → in the roots → *acu* – ‘needle’ i.e. sharp + *men* – ‘mind’ i.e. sharpness of mind
Mean : sharpness of mind; shrewdness; the ability to judge well
Ex : Though Dhirubhai Ambani didn’t have high sounding degrees, no one could ever question his business acumen.
Syn : Astuteness; Brilliance; Insight; Mental Keenness; Perception; Sharpness
Ant : Obtuseness; Shallowness; Stupidity
RW : **Accurate; Acuity** (keenness of perception); **Acupuncture** (treatment of disorders by inserting needles into the skin in specific parts of the body); **Acute**

ADDUCE (v)

- Cue :** **A D D U C E** → *ad* – ‘to’ + *duc* – ‘lead’ – to give a lead i.e. to **explain** your point **with an example**
Mean : to give as a reason or proof; cite as an example
Ex : Can you adduce any evidence in support of your point?
Syn : Cite; Proffer; Propose; Put forward
Ant : Disprove; Refute
RW : **Duct; Induce; Seduce**

AD HOC (adj)

- Cue :** **A D H O C** → *ad* – ‘to, for’ + *hoc* – ‘this’ → for this (specific purpose)
Mean : (1) for the specific purpose, case, or situation at hand and for no other, temporary
Ex : The committee was formed ad hoc to address the issues of health insurance problems.
Mean : (2) informal, not previously planned
Ex : Problems will be dealt with on an ad hoc basis as they arise.
RW: **Ad Infinitum, Ad Interim**

ADJUNCT (adj/n)

- Cue :** **A D J U N C T** → **ad** – ‘to’ + **junct** – ‘join’ i.e. to add
Mean : (1) a thing added to something else, but secondary or not essential to it
Ex : I hoped I would find the computer course a useful adjunct to my other studies.
Mean : (2) a person connected with another as a helper or subordinate associate
Ex : I was working under him as an adjunct lecturer.
Syn : Affiliate; Aide; Associate; Auxiliary; Collaborator; Supplement
RW : **Adjunctive; Junction; Juncture**

ADJURE (v)

- Cue :** **A D J U R E** → **ad** – ‘to’ + **jure** – ‘to swear’ i.e. to swear under oath
Mean : (1) to command or charge solemnly, often under oath or penalty
Ex : The judge adjured him to answer truthfully.
Mean : (2) to urge or advise earnestly
Ex : The teacher’s adjuration to the students to work hard was of no avail.
Syn : Beseech; Entreat; Implore; Importune; Petition; Plead; Propose; Urge
Ant : Deny; Disclaim; Refuse; Revoke
RW : **Abjure; Adjuration; Perjury**

ADMONISH (n)

- Cue :** **A D M O N I S H** → **ad** – ‘to’ + **mon/monit** – ‘warning’
Mean : to warn (gently but firmly); to reprove mildly
Ex : The teacher admonished the students for not working hard with the wordlists.
Syn : Castigate; Chide; Rebuke; Reprimand; Reproach; Scold; Upbraid
Ant : Approve; Commend; Compliment; Countenance; Laud; Praise
RW : **Monitor; Premonition** (a forewarning)

AD NAUSEAM (adv)

- Cue :** **A D N A U S E A M** → **ad** – ‘to’ + **nauseam** – ‘nausea, sickness’
 The literal meaning is ‘to nausea’. In Latin, nausea refers to seasickness.
Mean : ridiculous excess, to a sickening degree; endlessly
Ex : I am as fond of cricket as he is, but his love for cricket went on ad nauseam.
 (This expression has a stronger sense of unendurable boredom than *ad infinitum*).

ADROIT (adj)

- Cue :** **A D R O I T** → in the roots: **a** – ‘to’ + **droit** – ‘right hand’; as your right hand is more skillful than your left hand, which means that adroit is being ‘**Skillful**’
Mean : skillful; clever; expert
Ex : His adroit handling of the awkward situation saved the day for us.
Syn : Deft; Dexterous; Ingenious
Ant : Amateur; Awkward; Clumsy; Incompetent; Maladroit
RW : **Adroitness; Maladroit** (awkward; clumsy)

ADUMBRATE (v)

- Cue :** **ADUMBRATE** → in the roots: **ad** – ‘to’ + **umbre** – ‘shadow’ i.e. to shadow forth
- Mean :** (1) to give a faint shadow or slight representation of; to outline
- Ex :** Adumbrate the main ideas of this book.
- Mean :** (2) to suggest beforehand; foreshadow in a vague way
- Ex :** The famous economist had adumbrated the recession of the economy two years ago.
- Mean :** (3) to obscure; overshadow
- Ex :** The clouds adumbrated the sun.
- Syn :** Obfuscate
- RW :** **Penumbra** {the partly lighted area surrounding the complete shadow (umbra) of a body, as the moon, during an eclipse}; **Umbra**

ADVENT (n)

- Cue :** **ADVENT** → in the roots: **ad** – ‘to’ + **ven/vent** – ‘come’ i.e. to come
- Mean :** a coming or arrival of an event, invention or person
- Ex :** The advent of Internet has revolutionized communication.
- Syn :** Arrival; Embark; Ingress; Landing; Outset
- Ant :** Departure; Ending
- RW :** **Avenue; Circumvent** (to surround or circle around); **Convene; Convenient; Convert; Event; Intervene; Invent; Venture; Venue**

AD VALOREM

- Cue :** **AD VALOREM** → **ad** – ‘to’ + **valor** – ‘value’ i.e. according to the value
- Mean :** in proportion to the value: a phrase applied to certain duties and taxes levied on goods, property, etc. as a percentage of their value
- Ex :** The goods were taxed ad valorem.

ADVERT (v)

- Cue :** **ADVERT** → in the roots: **ad** – ‘to’ + **vert** – ‘turn’ i.e. to turn
- Mean :** to call attention or turn one’s attention (*to*); refer or allude
- Ex :** Let us advert to the earlier issue and address it properly.
- RW :** **Advertise; Convert; Revert; Adversary** (a person who opposes or fights against another; opponent); **Adversity**

AEROBATIC (n)

- Cue :** **AEROBATIC** → in the roots → **aero** – ‘air’ + **bat** – ‘walk, go’ – aerial stunts
- Mean :** spectacular feats done with an airplane, as loops or rolls
- Ex :** The squadron put on a display of breathtaking aerobatics.
- RW :** **Aerosol** (a metal container in which liquids are kept under pressure and forced out in a spray); **Aerate; Aerial; Aerobics; Aerodrome** (an airport, esp. a small one); **Aerodynamics** (the science dealing with the movement of objects through the air); **Aeronautics** (the science of how aircraft operate and fly); **Aerospace**

AESTHETIC (adj)

- Cue :** ‘guided by good taste’ or ‘beauty’
- Mean :** general appreciation of beauty; artistic

- Ex* : (i) Aesthetics appeal more to female than to male students.
 (ii) Modern architecture has abandoned aesthetic considerations in favour of functional efficiency.
- Syn* : Artistic; Tasteful
- Ant* : Philistine

AFFLICT (v)

- Cue* : **AFFLICT** → **flict** – 'to strike or knock down' i.e. trouble, distress
- Mean* : (1) to cause pain or suffering to; distress very much
- Ex* : Hunger and disease still afflict India.
- Mean* : (2) an illness or disease
- Ex* : He suffered from heart affliction.
- Syn* : Torment; Trouble
- RW* : **Conflict**, **Inflict** (cause suffering; force on something)

AFFRONT (n/v)

- Cue* : **AFFRONT** → **af** – 'to' + **front** i.e. 'to encounter face to face'
- Mean* : to insult or offend deliberately and openly
- Ex* : Affronted by his teacher in front of the entire class, he walked out of the class.
- Syn* : Abuse; Impertinence; Indignity; Insult; Offend; Offense; Provoke
- Ant* : Esteem; Regard; Respect
- RW* : **Confront** (to face; stand or meet face to face); **Effrontery**

AGNOSTIC (n)

- Cue* : **AGNOSTIC** → in the roots: **a** – 'not' + **gnostic/ cognoac** – 'to know' i.e. not to be known
- Mean* : someone who believes that it is impossible to know whether or not God exists
- Ex* : An agnostic believes that only material phenomena can be known.
- Syn* : Doubter; Dubious; Freethinker; Heathen; Infidel; Skeptic; Unbeliever
- Ant* : Believer; Gnostic
- RW* : **Cognition** (the process of knowing in the broadest sense, including perception, memory and judgment); **Cognoscente** (a person with special knowledge in some field, esp. in the fine arts; expert); **Gnosis** (knowledge of spiritual things); **Gnosticism**; **Incognito** (with true identity unrevealed or disguised); **Prognosis** (a forecast or forecasting; esp., a prediction of the probable course of a disease in an individual and the chances of recovery); **Recognize**

AGORAPHOBIA (n)

- Cue* : **AGORAPHOBIA** → **agora** – 'open spaces' + **phobia** – 'fear' i.e. fear of open spaces
- Mean* : fear of open spaces or of being in crowded, public places like markets; fear of leaving a safe place
- Ex* : She never goes out of her house as she suffers from agoraphobia.
- Ant* : **Claustrophobia** (fear of closed spaces)

AISLE (n)

- Cue* : **Isle** – a small island
- Mean* : (1) a passageway, especially between rows of seats in a church, theatre, aircraft, etc
- Ex* : The bride and groom walked down the aisle.
- Syn* : Gangway; Passageway; Walkway

À LA MODE (adj/adv)

- Cue :** **À LA MODE** → French: **à** – ‘in’ + **la** – ‘the’ + **mode** – ‘fashion’
- Mean :** (1) according to the latest fashion or ideas
- Ex :** The wearing of skirts is à la mode this summer.
- Syn :** Chic; Fashionable; In Style; In Vogue; Modish
- RW :** **A la** (in the manner of imitating - *Ex*: She tried to sing the song à la Lata Mangeshkar
A la carte (**à** – ‘by’ + **la** – ‘the’ + **carte** – ‘card’. i.e. according to the menu);
Cartel (group of businesses controlling market; alliance of like-minded political groups);
Cartilage

ALCOVE (n)

- Cue :** **al** – ‘the’ + **cove/cave** – ‘depression as in a wall’
- Mean :** a small space in a room, formed by one part of a wall being further back than the parts on the other sides
- Ex :** We are using the alcove in our room for studies.
- Syn :** Anteroom; Bay; Cubicle; Niche; Nook; Recess

ALEXIA (n)

- Cue :** **A L E X I A** → in the roots: **a** – ‘without’ + **lexis** – ‘word, speech’ i.e. inability to read
- Mean :** loss of the ability to read, caused by lesions of the brain; word blindness
- Ex :** Due to her prolonged illness, alexia has set in.
- Syn :** Visual Aphasia; Word Blindness

ALGOMETER (n)

- Cue :** **A L G O M E T E R** → in the roots: **alg/algo** – ‘pain’ + **meter** – ‘measurement’ i.e. measurement of pain
- Mean :** a device for measuring the intensity of pain caused by pressure
- Ex :** Algometer has a piston rod with a blunted tip which is pressed against the skin.
- Syn :** Odynometer
- RW :** **Algophobia** (an abnormal fear of pain); **Analgesic**; **Cardialgia** (a feeling of pain or discomfort in the region of the heart); **Myalgia** (pain in a muscle or muscles); **Neuralgia** (severe pain along the course of a nerve or in its area of distribution); **Nostalgia** (orig. painful memories of things that have happened in the past)

ALIAS (n)

- Cue :** **A L I A S** → in the roots: **ali/allo/alter** – ‘other’
- Mean :** (1) a false, assumed name
- Ex :** The terrorist used an alias when he registered at the hotel.
- Mean :** (2) otherwise known as
- Ex :** (i) The assassin used an alias when he registered at the hotel.
(ii) Cassius Clay, alias Muhammad Ali, was a famous boxer.
- RW :** **Alibi** (an excuse); **Alien**; **Alloy** (a substance that is a mixture, as by fusion, of two or more metals or of a metal and something else); **Alter**; **Alter Ego** (another aspect of oneself; a very close and trusted friend); **Altruism** (unselfish concern for the welfare of others; selflessness)

ALLEGIANCE (n)

- Cue :** Peg '**Loyalty**' with this word
- Mean :** (1) loyalty, especially to a country, sovereign or cause
- Ex :** As an Indian who'd lived for a long time in Australia, he felt a certain conflict of allegiance when the two countries played cricket.
- Mean :** (2) total devotion or faithfulness
- Ex :** The Japanese owe allegiance to nothing but an endless pursuit of excellence.
- Syn :** Adherence; Affiliation; Devotion; Fealty; Fidelity; Loyalty
- Ant :** Perfidy; Subversion; Treachery

ALLITERATION (n)

- Cue :** **ALLITERATION** → **al** – 'to' + **liter** – 'letter' i.e. using the same letter
- Mean :** the use, especially in poetry, of the same sound or sounds, especially consonants, at the beginning of several words that are close together
- Ex :** (i) 'What a tale of terror now their turbulence tells' uses alliteration.
(ii) 'Sing a song of sixpence' uses alliteration.

ALLUDE (v)

- Cue :** **ALLUDE** → **ad** – 'to' + **lud/lus** – 'play' i.e. make a fanciful reference to
- Mean :** (1) to refer to indirectly, without being specific (*to*); to mention briefly, in passing
- Ex :** (i) Although she may allude to her past failures, she never gives any details.
(ii) The allusions to a foreign hand behind every terrorist attack are merely attempts to fool the public.
- Syn :** Advert; Connote; Insinuate
- RW :** **Allusive**; **Delusion** (a mistaken belief); **Elude** (to avoid capture or understanding); **Elusive** (an elusive style is one whose effects are hard to define); **Illusion** (a mistaken perception); **Ludicrous** (laughable)

ALMA MATER (n)

- Cue :** **ALMA MATER** → in the roots: **alma** – 'nourishing' + **mater/matri** – 'mother' i.e. fostering mother
- Mean :** (1) the school, college or university that one has attended
- Ex :** During the annual function, I always check to see how my alma mater is doing.
- Syn :** Institution; Place of graduation; Place of matriculation
- RW :** **Maternal** (of, like, or characteristic of a mother or motherhood); **Matriach** (a mother who rules her family or tribe; specif., a woman who is head of a matriarchy); **Matriarchate**; **Matrimony** (the act or state of being married; marriage); **Matron**; **Almanac** (calendar, chronicle, yearbook)

ALTAR (n)

- Cue :** **ALTAR** → in the roots: **alt** – 'high'
- Mean :** (1) an elevated place or structure before which religious ceremonies may be enacted or upon which sacrifices may be offered
- Ex :** The place in a Gurudwara, where the 'Guru Granth Sahib' is kept is an altar.
- RW :** **Altimeter** (a device used in an aircraft to measure how high it is from the ground); **Altitude**

ALTRUISM (n)

- Cue :** **ALTRUISM** → in the roots: **alt/alter** – ‘other’ + **ism** – i.e. the principle of living for others
- Mean :** (1) unselfish concern for the welfare of others; selflessness
- Ex :** Complete altruism is truly an unattainable goal for any human being.
- Mean :** (2) the doctrine that the general welfare of society is the proper goal of an individual's actions
- Ex :** Contributing his prize money for the welfare of his city shows his altruistic nature.
- Syn :** Benevolence; Philanthropy; Unselfishness
- Ant :** Cynicism; Egoism; Selfishness

AMATEUR (adj)

- Cue :** **AMATEUR** → in the roots: **ama/ama** – ‘love, fondness for’
- Mean :** (1) a person who engages in some art, science, sport, etc. for the pleasure of it rather than for money; a nonprofessional
- Ex :** Earlier, the Olympics were only for amateurs.
- Mean :** (2) somewhat inexperienced or lacking skill
- Ex :** Her amateurish attempt at baking resulted in bread that didn't rise.
- Syn :** Avocational; Dabbler; Dilettantish; Incompetent; Inept; Inexperienced; Unskilled
- Ant :** Adept; Competent; Deft; Masterful
- RW :** **Amatory** (of, causing, or showing love, esp. sexual love); **Amorous** (full of love or fond of making love); **Enamored** (to fill with love and desire)

AMBIDEXTROUS (adj)

- Cue :** **AMBIDEXTROUS** → **ambi/amphi** – ‘both’ + **dextrous** – ‘right handed’ i.e. able to use both hands with equal ease
- Mean :** (1) capable of using either hand with equal ease
- Ex :** She is an ambidextrous writer as she writes as coherently with the left hand as with the right
- Mean :** (2) unusually skilful; adroit
- Ex :** He is just seven years old and yet so ambidextrous at making web programmes.
- Mean :** (3) deceptive or hypocritical
- Ex :** Don't go by her innocent looks, she is ambidextrous and would rob you off your current job.
- Syn :** (For meaning 3) Deceitful; Double-dealing; Duplicitous; Janus-faced; Two – faced
- RW :** **Ambiguous** (having two or more possible meanings; obscure); **Ambilevous** (left-handed on both sides, clumsy); **Ambitendency** (the coexistence within an individual of positive and negative feelings towards a person or object); **Ambivalence** (simultaneous conflicting feelings toward a person or thing, as love and hate; indecisiveness); **Amphibious** (able to live on land and water); **Amphitheater** (a round or oval building with an open space (arena) surrounded by rising rows of seats used for multiple activities)

AMBIENT (adj)

- Cue :** **AMBIENT** → **ambi** – ‘around’
- Mean :** surrounding, in the immediate environment
- Ex :** (i) The ambient temperature of planet Earth is steadily rising due to Greenhouse Effect.
- (ii) The open space of this restaurant provides a delightfully peaceful ambience.
- RW :** **Ambience** {atmosphere or character of a place (usually congenial; milieu)}; **Ambit**

AMBLE (v/n)

- Cue :** **A M B L E** → in the roots: **ambl/ambul** – ‘walk’
Mean : to walk slowly or leisurely; stroll
Ex : It's so pleasant today; let's go and amble in the park.
Syn : Canter; Gallop; Perambulation; Promenade; Ramble; Saunter; Stroll; Trot
RW : **Ambling; Ambulance; Ambulant** (moving about, walking); **Ambulatory** (able to walk and not confined to bed); **Noctambulation** (walking in one's sleep); **Perambulate** (to walk through, over, around, about); **Somnambulate** (to get up and move about in a trance-like state while asleep)

AMELIORATE (v)

- Cue :** **mel** - sweet ‘Improve’
Mean : to make better; cause a situation to improve
Ex : The “social clauses” in the GATT treaty aim at ameliorating the conditions of the disadvantaged in the developing world economies.
Syn : Amend; Improve; Meliorate; Upgrade
Ant : Worsen
RW : **Meliorate; Melody**

AMIALE (adj)

- Cue :** **A M I A B L E** → in the roots: **ami** – ‘friendly’ + **able** – ‘forming adjective’
Mean : (1) having a pleasant and friendly disposition; good-natured (usually used to describe people)
Ex : That old man seems amiable.
Syn : Affable; Amicable; Congenial; Cordial; Friendly; Genial
RW : **Amity** (friendly, peaceful relations, as between nations; friendship); **Amicable** (done in a friendly way - used to describe things or action); **Amicus Curiae** (friend of the court - one brought into a legal proceeding to provide general advice and counsel regarding the social or legal issues involved)

AMNESIA (n)

- Cue :** **A M N E S I A** → **a** – ‘no’ + **mne/mem** – ‘remember’ i.e. loss of memory
Mean : partial or total loss of memory caused as by brain injury or by shock
Ex : After the haemorrhage, she suffered from amnesia.
Syn : Blackout; Memory loss
RW : **Memento** (a keepsake); **Memorabilia** (things worth remembering or recording); **Memory; Reminisce** (to think, talk, or write about remembered events or experiences)

AMORTIZE (v)

- Cue :** **A M O R T I Z E** → **mor** – ‘mortal’ i.e. dead and relate it with ‘money’ → to pay your installments: as you got to pay your installments every year, so this money would be dead.
Mean : (1) to liquidate (a debt, such as a mortgage) by installment payments or payment into a sinking fund
Ex : The value of the machinery is amortized over five years.
Mean : (2) **accounting**: to write off expenditure for (office equipment, for example) by prorating over a certain period

- Ex** : An accountant amortizes cost of a long-term asset by deducting a portion of that cost against income in each period.
- Syn** : Capitalize; Deduct; Depreciation
- RW** : **Morbid** (of, having, or caused by disease; unhealthy; diseased); **Moribund** (dying; having little or no vital force left); **Mortician** (a person who manages a funeral home and is usually a licensed embalmer); **Mortuary**; **Mortgage**

ANACHRONISM (n)

- Cue** : **A N A C H R O N I S M** → in the roots: **an/ana** – ‘not/back, against’ + **chrono** – ‘time’ i.e. against time → something or someone misplaced in time
- Mean** : (1) the representation of someone as existing or something as happening in other than chronological, proper or historical order
- Ex** : Monopoly is an anachronism in today’s competitive environment.
- Mean** : (2) old-fashioned, belonging to the past
- Ex** : Typewriter seems an anachronism these days.
- Syn** : Antedate; Metachronism; Misdate; Prochronism; Prolepsis
- Ant** : Incongruity
- RW** : **Anaemia** (a condition in which there is a reduction of the number, or volume, of red blood corpuscles or of the total amount of hemoglobin in the bloodstream, resulting in paleness, generalized weakness, etc); **Anaesthesia** (total or partial loss of sensation, especially tactile sensibility, induced by disease, injury, acupuncture, or an anesthetic, such as chloroform or nitrous oxide); **Analgesia** (a fully conscious state in which a person does not feel painful stimuli); **Analgesic** (painkiller); **Anarchy** (the complete absence of government, lawlessness)

ANDROGYNOUS (adj)

- Cue** : **A N D R O G Y N O U S** → in the roots: **andro** – ‘male’ + **gyne** – ‘female’ i.e. both male and female characteristics
- Mean** : (1) **Biology**: having both female and male characteristics; hermaphroditic
(2) being neither distinguishably masculine nor feminine, as in dress, appearance or behavior
- Ex** : He wore a weird, androgynous costume to the fancy-dress party last evening.
- RW** : **Gynecologist**; **Polyandrous** (the state or practice of having two or more husbands at the same time); **Polygynous** (the state or practice of having two or more wives at the same time)

ANIMADVERT (v)

- Cue** : **A N I M A D V E R T** → in the roots: **anim** – ‘mind, spirit, breath’ + **advert** – ‘to turn to’ i.e. to turn the mind to → i.e. to criticize
- Mean** : to remark or comment critically, usually with strong disapproval or censure
- Ex** : He only had words of animadversion for his son’s failure at school.
- Syn** : Admonition; Censure; Criticism; Remonstrance; Stricture
- RW** : **Animal**; **Animated** (lively); **Animosity** (a feeling of strong dislike or hatred, ill will, hostility); **Animus** (an animating force; intention and also animosity); **Magnanimous**; **Unanimous** (unison)

ANNALS (n)

- Cue** : **A N N A L S** → in the roots: **ann/enn** – ‘year’
- Mean** : record of events in a year wise fashion
- Ex** : (i) The annals of Biomedicine.
(ii) In the annals of Cricket, Kapil’s name will be written in gold.

Syn : Chronicle; History
RW : **Anniversary; Annual; Annuity** (an investment or insurance policy which pays a yearly sum of money after a specific date or age); **Biennial** (two years); **Centennial** (100 years); **Perennial** (lasting or active throughout the whole year); **Superannuated** (retired, old – fashioned);
Semiannual; Annuity (an investment or insurance policy which pays a yearly sum of money after a specific date or age); **Annus Mirabilis (a remarkable year)**

ANNIHILATE (v)

Cue : **ANNIHILATE** → **nihil** – ‘nothing’
Mean : (1) to destroy completely; put out of existence
Ex : An atomic bomb can annihilate a city.
Mean : (2) to consider or cause to be of no importance or without effect; to defeat completely; nullify
Ex : Failing in the finals of competition annihilated his ambitions.
Syn : Decimate; Demolish; Destroy; Eradicate; Exterminate; Obliterate; Slaughter

ANNUNCIATE (v)

Cue : **ANNUNCIATE** → **annuncia** could be rhymed with ‘announce’
Mean : to announce, to make known
Ex : Jagjit Singh’s entry on the stage was annunciated by the host.
Syn : Broadcast; Promulgate
Ant : Denunciate

ANODYNE (n)

Cue : Peg ‘**free from pain**’ with this word
Mean : (1) a medicinal drug which lessens pain
Ex : The doctor prescribed an anodyne for his muscular pain
Mean : (2) something which comforts or distracts a troubled mind
Ex : He finds that playing piano is an anodyne for all his everyday problems.
Syn : Analgesic; Painkiller

ANOINT (n)

Cue : **ANOINT** → **oint** – ‘ointment or oil’
Mean : (1) to rub oil or ointment on; to put oil on someone in a religious ceremony, especially when consecrating a king or priest
Ex : Oil was used for the anointment of the king.
Mean : (2) to choose someone to do a particular job, usually by a person in authority
Ex : Let’s see whom the Chairman will anoint as his successor.
Syn. : Consecrate; Embrocate

ANONYMOUS (adj)

Cue : **ANONYMOUS** → in the roots: **an** – ‘without’ + **onym/nom** – ‘name’ i.e. without name
Mean : (1) with no name known or acknowledged
Ex : An anonymous caller informed the police about the murder.
Syn : Authorless; Incognito; Nameless; Pseudonymous; Unacknowledged; Unnamed; Unsigned
Ant : Acknowledged; Named; Signed
RW : **Anon** (an abbreviation for anonymous); **Anonymity; Antonym; Cognomen** (a surname); **Misnomer** (an incorrect name); **Nomenclature; Nominal** (existing in name only); **Nominate** (to appoint); **Homonym** (words pronounced or spelled the same way having different meanings); **Pseudonym** (a fictitious name); **Synonym**

ANTECEDENT (n)

- Cue :** **ANTECEDENT** → in the roots: **ante** – ‘before’ + **cede** – ‘move, go’ i.e. going before
- Mean :** (1) an event or circumstance occurring earlier than another; preceding
- Ex :** Phrenology was an antecedent of modern neuroscience.
- Mean :** (2) your ancestors, ancestry or past life
- Ex :** My antecedents were Indian.
- Syn :** (1) Anterior; Foregoing; Former; Past; Precedent; Precursory; Preliminary; Previous; Prior
(2) Antecessor; Descent; Forebears; Forefather; Genealogy; Primogenitor; Progenitor; Stock
- Ant :** (1) Posterior; Subsequent
(2) Descendant; Successor
- RW :** **Antebellum** (before the war); **Antedate** (to put a date on that is earlier than the actual date; to occur at an earlier date); **Antediluvian** (Extremely old and antiquated); **Antenatal** (for pregnant women; occurring or present before birth); **Antepenultimate** (last but one); **Anteroom** (a room leading into a larger room, especially a waiting room); **Antiquary** (someone who studies, collects or trades in objects of the past); **Antiquated** (Outdated, Old-fashioned); **Antique**; **Concede** (to admit as true or valid; acknowledge); **Recede** (to go or move back)

ANTHROPOMORPHIC (adj)

- Cue :** **ANTHROPOMORPHIC** → in the roots: **anthrop** – ‘man, human’ + **morph** – ‘form, shape’ i.e. having human form
- Mean :** attributing human shape or characteristics to a god, animal or inanimate thing
- Ex :** With their human characteristics, most of the gods in Hindu mythology were anthropomorphic.
- Syn :** Anthropoid; Hominoid; Humanoid; Manlike; Personification
- RW :** **Amorphous** (shapeless); **Anthropoid** (resembling a human; being that is human in form only esp. a manlike ape); **Anthropologist**; **Anthropology** (the study of the origin, development and behavior of mankind); **Anthropomorphous**; **Metamorphosis** (transformation); **Misanthrope** (a person who hates or distrusts all people); **Morphology** (the form and structure of an organism); **Philanthropy** (a desire to help mankind)

ANTIPATHY (n)

- Cue :** **ANTIPATHY** → in the roots: **anti/ant** – ‘against, opposite’ + **path/pass** – ‘feel, suffer’ i.e. dislike
- Note:** **anti** is different from **ante**, which means ‘in front of’ (anteroom) or ‘earlier than’ (antenatal)
- Mean :** (1) a feeling of strong dislike or hostility; an aversion
- Ex :** I have some sort of antipathy towards smokers.
- Syn. :** Abhorrence; Abomination; Acrimony; Aversion; Detestation; Hatred; Hostility; Loathing; Repellence; Repugnance; Repulsion; Revulsion
- Ant :** Affection; Fondness; Sympathy
- RW :** **Antagonize** (to oppose or counteract); **Anticlimax**; **Antigen**; **Antiptosis** (the substitution of one grammatical case for another); **Antitank**; **Antithesis**; **Apathy** (lack of interest); **Empathy** (to understand and share the feelings of another); **Impassioned** (arouse the passions); **Pathogen**; **Pathos** (a quality that arouses emotions, strong feelings); **Sympathy**; **Telepathy** **Anti-Semitism** (hostility toward or prejudice against Jews or Judaism); **Antivivisection** (opposition to medical research on living animals), **Antithesis**

A PRIORI (adj/adv)

- Cue :** **A P R I O R I** → **a** – ‘from’ + **priori** – ‘former’ i.e. from the former
- Mean :** from the former, already known. In philosophy and logic, a priori reasoning works from the general to the particular: it deduces individual facts from principles that are already known – literally, “from the former”
- Ex :** Famous detectives are known for their a priori reasoning.
- RW :** **A posteriori** (what essentially follows)

APARTHEID (n)

- Cue :** **A P A R T H E I D** → **apart** i.e. ‘separate’
- Mean :** a policy or practice of separating or segregating groups
- Ex :** Apartheid was the policy of strict racial segregation and political and economic discrimination against nonwhites in South Africa.

APHASIA (n)

- Cue :** **A P H A S I A** → **a** – ‘without’ and peg it with speech i.e. without speech
- Mean :** a total or partial loss of the power to use or understand words, usually caused by brain disease or injury
- Ex :** As he had suffered multiple injuries on his head during an accident, he suffered from aphasia for a long time.
- RW :** **Aphasic; Dysphasia**

APOCRYPHAL (adj)

- Cue :** **A P O C R Y P H A L** → **cryp** – ‘hide’ i.e. hiding truth
- Mean :** not likely to be true although often told and believed by some people to have happened
- Ex :** He told an apocryphal story about the actor’s life.
- Syn :** Fictitious; Spurious; Unauthenticated
- Ant :** Authentic; Doubtless; Real; Substantiated
- RW :** **Apocrypha** (of doubtful authenticity or authorship); **Cryptic; Encrypt**

APOGEE (n)

- Cue :** **A P O G E E** → **apo** – ‘away from’ + **gee** – ‘earth’ i.e. away from the earth
- Mean :** (1) the point farthest from the earth in the orbit of the moon or of a man-made satellite
- Ex :** To set the satellite at the right apogee is the most important aspect of satellite launching.
- Mean :** (2) the highest point of power or success
- Ex :** At the apogee of its history, ancient Athens was an architectural marvel.
- Syn :** Acme; Apex; Climax; Culmination; Peak; Pinnacle; Summit; Top; Zenith
- Ant :** **Perigee** (the point nearest to the earth in the orbit of the moon or of a man-made satellite)

APOSTATE (n)

- Cue :** **A P O S T A T E** → **apo** – ‘away from’ + **state** – ‘to stand’ i.e. away from what you stand for
- Mean :** (1) a person who has given up religion or left a political party
- Ex :** When he deserted the gang, his friends treated him as an apostate.
- Mean :** (2) an abandoning of what one has believed in, as a faith, cause or principle
- Ex :** In old days, apostasy was punishable by death.
- Syn :** Defector; Heretic; Renegade; Turncoat
- Ant :** Adherent; Faithful; Follower; Loyalist

APOSTLE (eposel) (n)

- Cue :** **A P O S T L E** → Peg Religious preacher or '**messenger**' with this word
- Mean :** (1) one of the disciples (traditionally 12) chosen by Christ to spread the gospel
- Ex :** The apostle named Peter was a fisherman.
- Mean :** (2) a person who leads or advocates a faith or cause
- Ex :** He was an apostle of conservation.
- Syn :** Catechizer; Disciple; Evangelist; Herald; Messenger

APOTHEOSIS (n)

- Cue :** **A P O T H E O S I S** → in the roots: **apo** – special use of this prefix, meaning, here is '**change**' + **the/theo** – '**God**' i.e. make (someone) a god or forming the best example
- Mean :** (1) the best or most extreme example of something
- Ex :** Most people agree that her acting career achieved its apotheosis in this film.
- Mean :** (2) the act of raising a person to the status of a god; deification
- Ex :** One of the large paintings showed the Apotheosis of the Emperor Trajan.
- Syn :** Consecration; Exaltation; Honor
- RW :** **Atheism; Monotheism; Polytheism; Theocracy** (government by a person or persons claiming to rule with divine authority); **Theology** (systematic study of religion)

APPARITION (n)

- Cue :** **A P P A R I T I O N** → **a + par** seeming to be, but not human
- Mean :** (1) the spirit of a dead person appearing in a form which can be seen
- Ex :** Natives were amazed at the apparition of this white stranger.
- Mean :** (2) a sudden or strange sight
- Ex :** The clown was a strange apparition in baggy trousers and a mask.
- Syn :** Boggle; Phantom; Specter; Spirit; Visitant; Wraith

APPEND (v)

- Cue :** **A P P E N D** → **ap** – '**to**' + **pend** could be rhymed with '**pendant**' → a pendant is attached to something, therefore, peg 'attach/to add' with this word
- Mean :** (1) to add something to the end of a piece of writing
- Ex :** The author appends a short footnote to the text explaining the point.
- Mean :** (2) an attachment
- Ex :** This section is a later appendage.
- Mean :** (3) associated with as a consequence
- Ex :** When he was promoted, he got an increment as an appendant.
- Syn :** Affix; Annex; Conjoin; Supplement
- Ant :** Disjoin; Remove; Subtract

APROPOS (adj/adv)

- Cue :** **A P R O P O S** → **ap** – '**to**' + **propos** – '**purpose**' i.e. to the purpose
- Mean :** (1) being at once opportune and to the point; fitting the situation; appropriate
- Ex :** Your comment is very apropos.
- Mean :** (2) with regard to; concerning
- Ex :** Apropos our date for lunch, I can't go.
- Syn :** Appropriate; Germane; Pertinent
- Ant :** Untimely

AQUAMARINE (n)

Cue : **AQUAMARINE** → **aqua** – ‘water’ + **marine** – ‘of the sea’ → of the sea water i.e. greenish blue colour

Note: the different meanings of *aqua* in UK and US

UK specialized: *water*, when it is used in make-up and beauty products

US: a *greenish-blue* colour

Mean : a pale greenish–blue transparent type of beryl used as a gemstone, or the colour of this stone.

Ex : The aquamarine dress reflected the colour of her eyes.

RW : **Aqua pura** (pure water; esp., distilled water); **Aquacade** (an aquatic exhibition or entertainment consisting of swimming, diving, etc., often to music); **Aquaculture** (the regulation and cultivation of water plants and animals for human use or consumption); **Aquanaut** (a person trained to live and work in a watertight underwater chamber in and from which he can conduct oceanographic experiments); **Aquarium**; **Aquatic**; **Aqueduct** (a bridge or channel built to carry water); **Aqueous**; **Arroyo** (a short water course, often dry gully or a rivulet or stream)

ARCHAEOLOGY (n)

Cue : **ARCHAEOLOGY** → In the roots: **archa/archaios** – ‘ancient, primitive’ + **logy** – ‘study’ i.e. the study of ancient things

Mean : the study of the material remains of cultures of the past

Ex : Thanks to archaeology many ancient civilizations could be unearthed.

RW : **Archaean** (*Geol.* designating or occurring in the earlier part of the Precambrian Era; esp. designating the highly crystalline, igneous and metamorphic rocks formed during that time); **Archaic**; **Archives** (a place where historical documents are stored)

ARCHETYPE (n)

Cue : **ARCHETYPE** → **arch** – ‘first’ + **type** – ‘model’ i.e. original pattern from which copies are made

Mean : (1) the original pattern, or model, from which all other things of the same kind are made; prototype

Ex : The Parthenon in ancient Athens was the archetype for many later buildings.

Mean : (2) a recurring theme or symbol in art or literature

Ex : His statues were archetypal images of women.

ARMADA (n)

Cue : **ARMADA** → pick up **arm** and peg it as ‘weapons’ → tools, implements of war

Mean : a fleet of war ships

Ex : During the Second World War, the American armada in Pearl Harbor was destroyed completely by the Japanese.

Syn : Fleet; Flotilla; Squadron

RW : **Armageddon** (*decisive battle*); **Armistice**; **Artillery** (these words are explained in the subsequent pages)

ARROGATE (v)

Cue : **ARROGATE** → **ar** (*prefix AD3 used before r*) – ‘to’ + **rog** – ‘ask’ i.e. to claim for oneself

Mean : to claim or seize without right; appropriate (to oneself) arrogantly

Ex : They arrogate to themselves the power to punish people.

Syn : Assume; Embrace; Imitate; Seize; Take Over; Usurp
Ant : Delegate
RW : **Abrogate** (to abolish); **Arrogant** (claiming false superiority); **Derogatory** (tending to lessen or air; disparaging); **Interrogate** (to question); **Rogatory** (asking or requesting)

ARTEFACT/ ARTIFACT (n)

Cue : **A R T E F A C T** → **arte** – ‘art’ + **fact** – ‘things made’ i.e. anything made by human art
Mean : an object that is made by a person, such as a tool, weapon, utensil or work of art, especially one that is of historical interest
Ex : The museum's collection includes artifacts dating back to prehistoric times.
Syn : Masonry; Relic
Ant : Natural object
RW : **Artifice** (clever or artful skill); **Artisan** (craftsman); **Artless** (without guile; open and honest)

ARTHROPOD (n)

Cue : **A R T H R O P O D** → **arthro** – ‘jointed’ + **pod/podos/ped** – ‘foot’ i.e. those with jointed feet
Mean : invertebrate animals with jointed legs, a segmented body and an exoskeleton, including insects, crustaceans, arachnids
Ex : Centipedes are arthropods.
RW : **Antipode** (anything diametrically opposite, exact opposite); **Arthralgia** (pain in a joint or joints); **Arthritis** (inflammation of a joint or joints, esp. as in rheumatoid arthritis); **Impede** (get feet in a trap); **Osteoarthritis** (a slowly progressive form of arthritis, found chiefly in older people, characterized by cartilage deterioration and bone enlargement); **Pedestrian**; **Podiatry** (the profession dealing with the specialized care of the feet and, esp., with the treatment and prevention of foot disorders); **Tripod** (three-legged stand)

ASPERSION (n)

Cue : **A S P E R S I O N** → **spers** – ‘scatter’ i.e. an attempt to scatter one's reputation
Mean : (1) an abusive attack on a person's character or good name
Ex : How easy it is to cast aspersions on another's character!
Mean : (2) a disparaging remark
Ex : In the 19th century any reference to female sexuality was considered a vile aspersion.
Syn : Calumny; Defamation; Denigration; Derision; Detraction; Slander; Slur
RW : **Disperse** (to break up and scatter in all directions; spread about); **Sparse**; **Asperity** (harshness or sharpness of temper)

ASSIDUOUS (asi-joo!s) (adj)

Cue : **A S S I D U O U S** → **sid/sed** – ‘sit’ → having a long and hard sitting
Mean : very diligent, constantly hard-working, industrious
Ex : (i) He is assiduous in his work.
(ii) We commend him for his assiduity.
Syn : Indefatigable; Laborious; Persevering; Persistent; Pertinacious; Resolute; Sedulous; Unflagging; Unremitting
Ant : Careless; Dilatory; Lazy; Negligent
RW : **Insidious** (deceptive); **Reside** (live in); **Residence**; **Sedate** (calm or relieve by means of a sedative drug); **Sedentary** (lack of physical activity); **Supersede** (replace something less efficient; succeed somebody or something)

ASTRAL (adj)

- Cue :** **A S T R A L** → **aster/astr** – ‘star’
- Mean :** (1) relating to the stars
- Ex :** Today the night sky is beaming with astral rays.
- Mean :** (2) relating to unknown forces; supernatural
- Ex :** Astral spirits; unusual astral occurrences; astral current.
- Syn :** Celestial; Heavenly; Planetary; Stellar
- RW :** **Asteroid; Aster; Asterisk** {a starlike sign (*) used in printing to indicate footnote references, omissions}; **Astrology; Astronaut; Astronomy; Celestial**

ATROPHY (n/v)

- Cue :** **A T R O P H Y** → **a** – ‘without’ + **trophy** – i.e. un – nourished → wasting away
- Mean :** a wasting away, of any part of the body or the failure of an organ or part to grow or develop, because of insufficient nutrition
- Ex :** (i) Muscles that are not used will atrophy.
(ii) Drug addiction sooner or later leads to atrophy.
- Syn :** Degeneration; Deterioration; Emaciation; Shrinking; Wasting Away; Withering
- RW :** **Hypertrophy** (a considerable increase in the size of an organ or tissue, caused by enlargement of its cellular components)

ATTRITION (adj/n)

- Cue :** Have you ever seen the *edge of the well* that has been worn down due to the constant pull of the rope? That’s attrition
- Mean :** (1) wearing down to weaken or destroy
- Ex :** (i) Addition of nickel and chrome inhibits the attrition of iron.
(ii) Rocks are worn down by the attrition of waves.
- Mean :** (2) loss of personnel in an organization in the normal course of events, as by retirement or resignation
- Ex :** The attrition rate has increased because of poor wages.
- Syn :** Abrasion; Decline; Depreciation; Erosion; Friction; Gradual disintegration; Grinding Down; Reduction; Rubbing; Weakening; Wearing away; Wearing down
- Ant :** Appreciation; Buildup; Increase

AUDITORY (adj)

- Cue :** **A U D I T O R Y** → **audi/audio** – ‘hearing, sound’
- Mean :** of or having to do with hearing or the organs of hearing
- Ex :** He has developed auditory problem due to ear infection.
- RW :** **Audible; Audience; Audition; Auditorium; Aural** (pertaining to the ear)

AUGUR (ogur) (v/n)

- Cue :** When astrologers predict your future; they augur your future i.e. ‘foretelling’ is the peg for this word
- Mean :** (1) to be a sign of what will happen
- Ex :** Your diligence and honesty augur well for your future.
- Mean :** (2) the custom in ancient Rome of foretelling the future by omens
As a noun, **augur** refers to the Roman official who made predictions from omens or by extension to any prophet or soothsayer

Ex : The Roman general depended on augury to show if the time was right to attack.
 Syn : Bode; Conjecture; Foretell; Omen; Portend; Predict; Presage; Prognosticate; Prognosis
 Ant : Propitiate
 RW : **August**

AURORA (n)

Cue : Ancient Roman goddess of the dawn
 Mean : (1) the rising light of the morning; the dawn of day; the redness of the sky just before the sun rises.
 Ex : (i) With the aurora, everything comes out of the night's darkness and creates a new hope of life.
 (ii) Old people like to get up at the auroral time.
 Mean : (2) atmospheric phenomena consisting of streams of light
 RW : **Aurora Australis** (aurora of the southern hemisphere); **Aurora Borealis** (the aurora of the northern hemisphere); **Aura**

AUTARCHY (otarki) (n)

Cue : **AUTARCHY** → **auto** – 'self' + **archy** – 'to rule' i.e. self or absolute rule
 Mean : (1) absolute rule or sovereignty; autocracy
 Ex : Even in the 21st century, people in certain countries have to suffer atrocities under an autarchy.
 Mean : (2) self-sufficiency, especially economic self-sufficiency as applied to nations
 Ex : No country can achieve total autarky.
 Syn : Autocracy; Liberty
 RW : **Autism; Autobiography; Autocracy; Autocrat; Autogenous; Autographed; Auto-Immune; Automatic; Automation; Automobile; Autonomy; Autopsy**

AVALANCHE (n)

Mean : (1) a mass of loosened snow, earth, rocks, etc. suddenly and swiftly sliding down a mountain, often growing as it descends
 Ex : Workers scrambled to find the living and the dead, the victims of a sudden and massive avalanche.
 Mean : (2) any large, overwhelming quantity that comes suddenly
 Ex : The program brought an avalanche of mail.
 Syn : (1) Icefall; Landslide; Landslip; Mudslide; Rockslide; Snowslide
 (2) Deluge; Flood; Plenty; Torrent

AVANT-GARDE (n)

Cue : French expression – '**advance guard**'
 Mean : the leaders in new or unconventional movements, esp. in the arts
 Ex : Only the avant-garde could bring radical changes in their respective fields.
 Syn : Cutting edge; Liberal; Unconventional; Vanguard

AVERSE (adj)

Cue : **AVERSE** → **AVERT** → **a** – 'ab' - 'from, away' + **vertere** – 'to turn' i.e. turned away
 Mean : (1) opposed, reluctant or disinclined
 Ex : The govt. is averse to the idea of releasing criminals for the release of kidnapped foreigners.

Mean : (2) a strong dislike
Ex : She has an aversion for classical music.
Syn : Antipathetic; Indisposed; Loath; Recalcitrant; Reluctant; Uneager; Unwilling
Ant : Enthusiastic; Interested; Willing
RW : **Adverse** (opposed, hostile, antagonistic) is not used of people
Aversion also differs from **antipathy** and **abhorrence**. Aversion stresses avoidance or rejection, and antipathy stresses on active hostility whereas abhorrence implies a feeling of extreme aversion or repugnance

AVIARY (n)

Cue : **AVIARY** → **avi** – ‘bird’ + **ary** – relating to ‘place’ i.e. a place in which birds are kept.
Remember; it’s different from **‘apiary’** i.e. a beehive
Mean : a large cage or building for keeping birds
Ex : The aviary at Jeejeebhoy Gardens has fascinating collections.
Syn : Birdhouse; Enclosure; Zoo
RW : **Aviation; Aviator; Avicide; Aviculture; Apiary** (a place where bees are kept)

AVOCATION (n)

Cue : **AVOCATION** → **a** – ‘away’ + **vocation** – ‘a specified profession or trade’ i.e. additional vocation
Mean : an activity taken up in addition to one's regular work or profession, usually for enjoyment; a hobby
Ex : Even after he owned a book shop, he continued teaching at his old institute as an avocation.
Syn : Minor occupation; Side-business

AWRY (adv)

Cue : **‘Askew’** – peg for this word
Mean : (1) with a twist to a side; not straight; askew
Ex : The picture was hanging awry.
Mean : (2) amiss, wrong
Ex : Our plans of going on a picnic went awry.
Syn : (1) Aslant; Cockeyed; Crooked; Lopsided; Skew-whiff; To one side; Wonky
(2) Astray; Haywire
RW : **Wry** (perverse, disdainful, also with distorted facial expression)

'B'

BALLISTICS (n)

- Cue :** **BALLISTICS** → 'throw a ball'; related to the **study of motion of firearms**
- Mean :** (1) the science dealing with the motion and impact of projectiles, such as bullets, rockets, bombs and the effects firing has on fire-arms (usually singular)
- Ex :** (i) The ballistics will explain the launch of that rocket.
(ii) The ballistics will show whether that gun fired this bullet or not.
- Mean :** (2) a weapon that is directed long distances by remote control
- Ex :** A ballistic missile is powered and guided for only part of its flight.
- Mean :** (3) **go ballistic** (colloq.): to become so angry as to lose emotional control
- Ex :** Your father will go ballistic if you fail this year also.
- RW :** **Balloon; Bullet**

BARRAGE (baraaj)

- Cue :** **BARRAGE** → **bar** → 'barrier' forms the peg for this word
- Mean :** (1) continuous firing of large guns to protect soldiers advancing on an enemy
- Ex :** Our guns kept up a continuous barrage on the enemy lines.
- Mean :** (2) a heavy, prolonged attack of words, blows, etc
- Ex :** He faced a barrage of questions over his failure of the project.
- Mean :** (3) a man-made barrier across a stream, river, etc. to store the water or channel it for irrigation, dam
- Ex :** The Farrakka Barrage has considerably mitigated the flood problem in Bengal and Bihar.

BEDLAM (n)

- Cue :** Originally the name of a mental asylum. Later used figuratively to mean a madhouse
- Mean :** (1) a place or activity filled with chaos and commotion, noisy and unruly activity
- Ex :** The scene in the children's room, when their parents returned, was one of complete bedlam and disorder.
- Mean :** (2) a scene of uproar and confusion
- Ex :** The parliament plunged into bedlam once again.
- Syn :** Commotion; Fluster; Pandemonium; Tumult; Turmoil

BEDRAGGLE (v)

- Cue :** **BEDRAGGLE** → **be** – 'to make, cause' + **dragg** i.e. to make wet, limp, and dirty, as by dragging through mire
- Mean :** to make wet, limp, and dirty
- Ex :** Tourists got caught in the heavy rain and returned to their room thoroughly bedraggled.

BEEF (v)

- Cue :** **Beef** is a full-grown ox, cow, bull, or steer esp. one bred and fattened for meat; generalizing, it signifies 'muscle' and thereupon 'strength'. 'Complain' is also one of its meaning
- Mean :** (1) to grumble repeatedly; complain
- Ex :** (i) He is always beefing about inflation and the cost of living.
(ii) My main beef about the job is that I have to work on Sundays.
- Mean :** (2) muscular, brawny
- Ex :** He wouldn't like to tackle that beefy wrestler.

Mean : **beef up**: to strengthen or build up

Ex : My mother's illness has left her thin and weak, she needs beefing up with a good tonic.

BEFUDDLE (v)

Cue : **B E F U D D L E** → **be** – 'to make, cause' + **fuddle** – 'to get drunk' i.e. to confuse as though with drink

Mean : (1) to make somebody confused or perplexed as with alcoholic liquor

Ex : Drinking too much wine has befuddled him.

Syn : Baffle; Bewilder; Fuddle; Inebriate; Muddle

BEGRUDGE (v)

Cue : **B E G R U D G E** → **be** – 'to make, cause' + **grudge** – 'feel or show dissatisfaction'

Mean : (1) to resent someone having something you think he doesn't deserve; to envy

Ex : I don't begrudge her topping the university as she has worked harder than any of us.

Mean : (2) to give with reluctance

Ex : I begrudge giving him money as I know he will squander it.

RW : **To begrudge** suggests envy; **to grudge** suggests reluctance; **Beleaguer**; **Beholden**; **Belabor**; **Bemoan**; **Beguile** (deceive)

BELCH (v)

Cue : **B E L C H** → relate with '**belly**' → belly out i.e. gas from belly out

Mean : (1) to expel (gas) through the mouth from the stomach, burp

Ex : Aerated drinks can make you belch.

Mean : (2) to throw forth (its contents) violently, often in spasms

Ex : The volcano belched flame.

Syn : Eruct; Erupt

BELIE (v)

Cue : **B E L I E** → '**lie**' is the peg for this word

Mean : contradict; give a false impression

Ex : (i) He belied his innate crookedness with his genial exterior and fine behaviour.

(ii) His smile belies his anger.

Syn : Disguise; Gainsay; Garble; Repudiate

BELLICOSE (adj)

Cue : **B E L L I C O S E** → **belli** – 'war' i.e. wishing to fight

Mean : of a quarrelsome or hostile nature, eager to fight or quarrel

Ex : His bellicose manner led to a fight with his colleague.

Syn : Belligerent; Contentious; Hostile; Pugnacious; Warlike

RW : **Antebellum** (before war); **Bellicosity**; **Belligerent**; **Casus Belli** (an event provoking war or used as a pretext for making war); **Rebellion**

BEMUSE (v/adj)

Cue : **B E M U S E** → **be** – 'not' + **muse** – 'to think deeply and at length' i.e. to make utterly confused

Mean : (1) to cause somebody to be confused or puzzled

- Ex** : He was bemused by all the attention he was receiving.
Mean : (2) to cause to be engrossed in thought
Ex : The scientific article in the newspaper left him somewhat bemused.
Syn : Bewilder; Daze; Distract; Muddle
RW : It differs from **amuse** in the sense that when you *bemuse* people, you confuse them

BENEDICTION (n)

- Cue** : **B E N E D I C T I O N** → **bene** – ‘well, good’ + **diction** – ‘to speak’ i.e. to speak well of, bless
Mean : a blessing, an invocation of divine blessing, esp. at the end of a religious service
Ex : The priest pronounced the benediction.
Syn : Benison; Blessing; Good Wishes; Invocation; Sanctification
Ant : Curse; Malediction
RW : **Benefactor** (a person who has given help, esp. financial help; patron); **Benefic**; **Beneficent** (doing good-used of people); **Beneficial** (doing good-of things or abstractions); **Beneficiary** (a person entitled to benefits of a policy); **Benefit**; **Benevolent** (wanting to do good; charitable); **Benign** (kindly, well-disposed)
 The following example would clear any confusion, if any: A **benevolent** philanthropist of **benign** temperament may become a **beneficent** patron of the arts by making donations that will have **beneficial** effects

BENEVOLENCE (adj)

- Cue** : **B E N E V O L E N C E** → **bene** – ‘well, good’ + **vol** – ‘will, to wish’
Mean : wanting to do good, generous, charitable nature
Ex : His benevolence turned out to be a deception to cover his nefarious activities.
Syn : Donation; Largesse; Philanthropy
Ant : Baleful; Enmity; Malice; Malignancy
RW : **Malevolent** (wishing evil or harm to others); **Volunteer**; **Volition** (exercise of the will as in deciding what to do)

BEQUEATH (v)

- Cue** : Peg it with ‘**pass down**’
Mean : (1) to leave (property) to another by last will and testament
Ex : Her father bequeathed her family fortune in his will.
Mean : (2) to hand down or pass on to subsequent generations
Ex : Gandhiji has bequeathed us Indians with the traditions of nonviolence.
Syn : Accord; A Legacy; Bestow; Grant; Hand out
RW : **Bequest** (that which is bequeathed - He left a bequest of his valuable paintings to his son); **Bestow**

BESEECH (v)

- Cue** : **B E S E E C H** → **Seek**
Mean : to ask (someone) earnestly; entreat; implore
Ex : (i) He came again and again, beseeching money.
 (ii) She beseeched me to help her with her project.
Syn : Adjure; Entreat; Implore; Importune
RW : **Benighted** (overtaken by darkness or ignorance)

BESIEGE (v)

- Cue :** **B E S I E G E** → **be** – ‘around’ + **siege** – ‘a seat’, implying the sense of an army ‘sitting down’ before a fortress
- Mean :** (1) to bring about the surrender of a fortified area or city by surrounding it with an army, lay siege to
- Ex :** The Greeks set out to besiege Troy.
- Mean :** (2) to crowd around somebody or hemmed in
- Ex :** The actor was besieged by his fans.
- Mean :** (3) to harass a person or organization with insistent demands or complaints
- Ex :** The box office was besieged by fans wanting tickets.
- Syn :** Beset; Blockade; Enclose; Surround
- Ant :** Defense; Retreat; Withdrawal

BESMIRCH (v)

- Cue :** **B E S M I R C H** → **be** + **smear** – ‘to sully, defile’
- Mean :** (1) to make dirty, soil
- Ex :** The child besmirched his clothes by falling into a ditch.
- Mean :** (2) to bring dishonor to; sully
- Ex :** Don't try to besmirch his fair name.
- Syn :** Calumniate; Defame; Denigrate; Malign; Scandalize; Slander; Slur
- RW :** **Bespatter**

BESTIAL (adj)

- Cue :** **B E S T I A L** → ‘beast’ + **ial** – i.e. like a beast
- Mean :** marked by brutality or depravity
- Ex :** (i) The soldiers were accused of bestial acts against unarmed civilians.
(ii) The bestiality of the attack on the woman was loathsome.
- Syn :** Brutal; Brutish; Depraved; Feral; Inhumane; Savage
- Ant :** Humane; Noble

BEWITCH (v)

- Cue :** **B E W I T C H** → **Witch** forms the peg for this word
- Mean :** (1) to use witchcraft or magic on; cast a spell over
- Ex :** She is afraid the ogress will bewitch her.
- Mean :** (2) to attract and delight irresistibly; enchant; fascinate
- Ex :** He found her beauty utterly bewitching.
- Syn :** (1) Enchant; Invoke; Voodoo; Exorcise
(2) Beguile; Captivate; Capture; Enthrall; Fascinate; Mesmerize; Trance
- Ant :** Disenchant; Disgust; Repulse

BIANNUAL (adj)

- Cue :** **B I A N N U A L** → **bi** – ‘two, twice’ + **annual** – ‘year’
- Mean :** coming twice a year; semiannual
- Ex :** Our company publishes a biannual report in June and December.

RW : **Bicentennial** (happening once in a period of 200 years); **Bicuspid** (having two points); **Bimonthly**; **Binary**; **Bi-Partisan**; **Biped**; **Bisexual**; **Bivalve**; **Biennial** (coming once in two years)

BIBLIOPHILE (n)

Cue : **BIBLIOPHILE** → **bibl** – 'book' + **phil** – 'love' i.e. one who loves books

Mean : a person who loves or collects books

Ex : Bibliophiles are so engrossed while reading that they hardly notice anything else.

RW : **Bible**; **Biblical**; **Bibliography**; **Bibliolatry** (excessive veneration of books); **Bibliomancy** (prediction based on a Bible verse or literary passage chosen at random); **Bibliomania** (a craze for collecting books, esp. rare ones); **Bibliopeggy** (the art of bookbinding); **Bibliopole** (a bookseller, esp. one dealing in rare works); **Bibliotheca** (a book collection; library); **Philanthropy**; **Philosophy**

BIBLIOGRAPHY (n)

Cue : **BIBLIOGRAPHY** → **biblio** – 'book' + **graphy** – '(something) drawn or written' i.e. sources of books for writing

Mean : a list of books on a particular topic or by a single author

Ex : (i) I am compiling a bibliography on Indian culture and traditions.
(ii) The bibliography at the end of his project shows the extent of his research.

RW : **Autograph**; **Biography**; **Demography** (the statistical science dealing with the distribution, density, vital statistics, etc. of human populations); **Geography**; **Graphic** (describing or described in realistic and vivid detail; vivid); **Graphology** (the study of handwriting, esp. as a clue to character, aptitudes); **Lexicography** (the act, process, art or work of writing or compiling a dictionary or dictionaries); **Telegraph**

BIBULOUS (adj)

Cue : **BIBULOUS** → **bibul** – 'to drink'

Mean : (1) addicted to or fond of drinking

Ex : He cannot be a member of this club unless he shuns his bibulous ways.

Mean : (2) very absorbent, as paper or soil

Ex : This paper would soak all the ink as it is bibulous.

BIGOT (n)

Cue : **BIGOT** → Originally a derogatory swearing in the name of God. **bi** – 'by' + **got** – 'God' i.e. by God

Mean : Derogatory term for a person who holds utterly intolerant opinion for a particular creed, race

Ex : (i) A bigot would never rationalize.
(ii) He is reasonable in most things but is extremely bigoted when it comes to religion.
(iii) The bigotry of the clergy led to the Holy- Crusades in Europe.

Syn : Chauvinist; Doctrinaire; Dogmatist; Extremist; Fanatic; Partisan; Racist; Radical; Zealot

BIZARRE (adj)

Mean : (1) peculiar, strange, odd; eccentric

Ex : We stared at her bizarre dress made out of dishcloths.

Mean : (2) Unexpected and Unbelievable, Fantastic

Ex : What a bizarre sequence of events!
Syn : Freakish; Grotesque; Outlandish; Outré; Unconventional

BLANCH (blanhch) (v)

Cue : **BLANCH** → To '**blanc**' / '**blank**' by removing color – i.e. to whiten
Mean : (1) to grow pale or whiten; to remove colour from
Ex : (i) The terrible news caused her to blanch.
(ii) Strong sunlight may blanch the curtains.
Mean : (2) to plunge fruit, vegetables, etc., briefly into boiling water
Ex : If you blanch almonds, the skins will peel off easily.
Syn : Blench; Etiolate; Parboil; Whiten
RW : **Blench** also means to draw back or shy away, as from fear; flinch (*Ex*. He blenched at the sight of vultures hovering around a carcass); **Bleach** is never used of people except metaphorically (*Ex*. She is a woman bleached of all emotions)

BLAND (adj)

Mean : (1) without much taste (of food etc.), mild; uninteresting
Ex : (i) Without seasoning, food tends to be bland.
(ii) Pop music these days is so bland.
Mean : (2) showing no strong feelings or other noticeable qualities
Ex : He has rather a bland style of writing.
Syn : Insipid; Prosaic; Savorless; Suave; Tasteless; Unexciting; Unstimulating; Vapid
Ant : Piquant
RW : **Blandishment** (coax by flattery)

BLASPHEMY (n)

Cue : **BLASPHEMY** → **Blas** – 'evil' + **Phem** – 'speech / utterance'. Could be pegged with 'profane' i.e. showing lack of respect (usu.) to God or religion
Mean : profane or contemptuous speech, writing, or action concerning God or anything held as divine
Ex : (i) Christians regard the irreverent use of God's name as blasphemy.
(ii) In many states, blasphemous statutes have been repealed.
Syn : Desecration; Disrespect; Heresy; Irreverence; Lewdness; Profanity; Reviling; Sacrilege
Ant : Piety; Prayer; Reverence; Worship

BLATANT (adj)

Mean : Loudly offensive
Ex : The whole episode was a blatant attempt to gain publicity.
Syn : Brazen; Flagrant; Vociferous
Ant : Furtive; Unobtrusive
RW : **Blatant** is often confused with **flagrant**, as both attribute conspicuousness and offensiveness to certain acts. **Blatant** describes something that is both very noticeable and offensive, especially if it is loud and noisy. It has a negative meaning and does not simply mean 'obvious'. **Flagrant** describes something even worse; implies shocking wrongness and breaks laws and trust. It carries a stronger sense of wrongdoing than blatant does, suggesting notoriety or even evil. A **flagrant violation of law** is not only an open and unashamed defiance but a particularly wicked one as well. The following example would make the difference more clear: a violation of human rights might be either **blatant or flagrant**. If it is committed with contempt for public scrutiny, it is **blatant**. If its brutal behaviour is extremely huge, it is **flagrant**

BLITHE (adj)

- Cue :** *blissful*
- Mean :** (1) happy, cheerful or gay
- Ex :** Her blithe personality makes her the life of a party
- Mean :** (2) carelessly or casually
- Ex :** (i) He talked incessantly, blithely unaware of our boredom.
(ii) He blithely agreed to the contract without realizing what its consequences would be.
- Syn :** Buoyant
- Ant :** Grave
- RW :** *Blitheness; Blithesome*

BLITZ (n)

- Cue :** From the German word *blitzkrieg* meaning 'lightning war'
- Mean :** (1) a sudden, intensive attack, especially from the air
- Ex :** The Israeli air force's blitz at Entebbe remains a landmark rescue operation till date.
- Mean :** (2) any concentrated effort
- Ex :** The company launched its new product with a massive advertising blitz.
- Syn :** Assault; Barrage; Blitzkrieg; Lightning attack; Onslaught; Raid

BLOND/ BLONDE (n)

- Mean :** a person of fair complexion and light coloured hair
- Ex :** Marilyn Monroe was a blonde.
- RW :** *Brunette*

BODE (v)

- Mean :** to be an omen of
- Ex :** (i) These changes will bode ill for the company's future.
(ii) This fine weather bodes well for tomorrow's hockey match.
- RW :** *Forebode*

BOHEMIAN (adj)

- Mean :** a person, esp. an artist, poet, etc., who lives in an unconventional, nonconforming way
- Ex :** (i) M.F. Hussein is known for his Bohemian ways.
(ii) His Bohemian ways are in total contrast to his conservative upbringing.
- Syn :** Nonconformist; Unorthodox

BOISTEROUS (adj)

- Mean :** loud, rough and violent behavior
- Ex :** The boisterous behavior of my boss at the party took me by complete surprise.
- Syn :** Clamorous; Obstreperous; Raucous; Rowdy; Tumultuous; Turbulent
- Ant :** Peaceful; Placid; Quiet; Shy; Timid

BONHOMIE (n)

- Cue :** **B O N H O M I E** → *bon* – 'good' + *homme* – 'man' i.e. good nature
- Mean :** a disposition to be friendly and approachable; geniality
- Ex :** The newfound bonhomie between the erstwhile rivals is being appreciated.
- RW :** *Bona fide (in good faith)*

BOOTLEG (v)

- Cue** : **boot + leg** - the trick of concealing something in the leg of a high boot
- Mean** : to make, carry, or sell alcohol illegally; hence, such illegal alcohol or other items
- Ex** : The police seized many cases of bootlegged whisky from the wine store.
- RW** : **Bootlegger**

BOURGEOIS (boorzhwa) (n/adj)

- Cue** : **'Middle class'**
- Mean** : (1) a derogatory term used for the attitudes and behavior characteristic of the middle class
- Ex** : They're such a boring, bourgeois couple, concerned only with their material wellbeing.
- Mean** : (2) the middle classes
- Ex** : According to the Marxist theory, the bourgeois exploit the working class.
- RW** : **Proletariat** (working class)

BOWDLERIZE (v)

- Cue** : From **'Thomas Bowdler'**, English editor who in 1818 published a notorious expurgated Shakespeare, "in which those words and expressions are omitted which cannot with propriety be read aloud in a family"
- Mean** : to remove passages considered offensive from (a book, play, etc)
- Ex** : The author was asked to bowdlerize the novel before its final printing.
- Syn** : Edit; Expurgate; Expunge; Sanitize

BRACKISH (adj)

- Cue** : **B R A C K I S H** → **brack** – 'salty'
- Mean** : (1) somewhat salty, as the water of some marshes near the sea
- Ex** : Brackish water is salty, dirty, and unpleasant.
- Mean** : (2) having an unpleasant taste; nauseating
- Ex** : I could not eat the brackish porridge for dinner.
- Syn** : Saline
- RW** : **Brine** (water full of salt as of the sea, ocean); **Briny** (of or like brine; very salty)

BRAGGADOCIO (n)

- Cue** : **B R A G G A D O C I O** → **brag** → 'bragging' i.e. boasting
- Mean** : empty boasting or bragging, or a person who engages in such bragging
- Ex** : Never trust him; his words are nothing but empty braggadocio.
- Syn** : Gasconade; Rodomontade; Swaggering
- RW** : **Braggart**

BRAVURA (adj/n)

- Cue** : **B R A V U R A** → **brav** / 'brave'
- Mean** : a daring or brilliant display
- Ex** : He thrilled the audience with his bravura performance.
- RW** : **Bravado** (pretended courage or defiant confidence where there is really little or none)

BRAZEN (adj)

- Cue :** **B R A Z E N** → **Braz** – ‘**brass**’ – ‘brash or brassy’
Mean : (1) showing no shame, bold
Ex : His brazen lie could not stand scrutiny.
Syn : Audacious; Blatant; Bumptious; Impertinent; Impudent; Insolent; Unashamed
Ant : Polite; Respectful; Reserved; Shamed

BREVITY (n)

- Cue :** **B R E V I T Y** → **brev** → ‘brief’ i.e. ‘short’
Mean : briefness; conciseness of language
Ex : His essays are models of clarity and brevity.
Syn : Briefness; Conciseness; Concision; Pithiness; Shortness; Terseness
Ant : Lengthiness; Wordiness
RW : **Breviary** (short prayer book used by Catholic priests)

BRIDLE (n/v)

- Cue :** **leather strap used by a rider** to control a horse. Generalizing, anything that controls
Mean : anything that controls or restrains
Ex : (i) His common sense is a bridle to his quick temper
(ii) Responsibility is the best bridle for the impetuosity of youth.
Syn : Check; Control; Curb; Deterrent; Hackamore; Halter; Restraint
Ant : Aid; Assist; Encouragement; Facilitate; Foster; Spur; Unbridle

BRIGAND (n)

- Cue :** **B R I G A N D** → **Brig** – ‘fight’
Mean : a bandit, usually one of a roving band
Ex : The brigands of Chambal ruled the ravines for almost half a century.
Syn : Cheat; Freebooter; Outlawed criminal; Thug
RW : **Brigade** (unit of a fighting force)

BRINK (n)

- Cue :** ‘**bank**’/‘**edge**’
Mean : (1) the upper edge of a steep, high place; the edge of a stretch of water
Ex : She stood on the brink of the gorge wondering if the water was cold.
Mean : (2) very near something exciting or dangerous
Ex : (i) The firm was on the verge of bankruptcy but the new owner took us back from the brink.
(ii) Scientists are on the brink of a major new discovery.
Syn : Brim; Edge; Verge
RW : **Brinksmanship**

BRISTLE (v)

- Cue :** **Prickly hair** – ‘prick’
Mean : (1) showing anger; react in an angry or offended manner
Ex : She bristled at his impertinent remarks about her mother.
Mean : (2) full of, overflowing
Ex : It was a pleasant day and the central part of the town was bristling with activity.

Syn : (1) Fulminate; Rage; Rant; Rave
Ant : Appease; Assuage; Calm; Simmer down
Syn : (2) Abound; Exuberate

BROWBEAT (v)

Cue : **BROWBEAT** → **brow** – 'eyebrow' + **beat** – 'to beat with stern looks'
Mean : to intimidate with harsh, stern looks and talk
Ex : Usually the rich try to browbeat the poor.
Syn : Badger; Cow; Frighten; Hector; Pester; Swagger
Ant : Embolden; Encourage; Inspirit; Persuade

BRUNETTE (n)

Cue : **Brunette** is the antonym of 'blonde'
Mean : a woman with dark brown hair
Ex : Is your girlfriend a blonde or a brunette?

BUCOLIC (adj)

Cue : **BUCOLIC** → **bu** – 'ox/bovine' + **kol** – 'keeper' – herdsmen, later taken to mean rustic
Mean : (1) of or characteristic of the countryside or its people, rustic
Ex : The painting shows a typically bucolic environ, with peasants harvesting crops in a field.
Mean : (2) Of or characteristic of shepherds or flocks, pastoral
Ex : Thanks to the government's heavy subsidies, bucolic pursuits can now earn handsome returns.
Syn : Agrarian; Arcadian; Campestral; Countrified; Rustic; Uncouth
Ant : City; Metropolitan; Urban

BUGABOO (n)

Cue : **Bogyboo** — **Bug** + **boo** – bugbear, 'imaginary scare'
Mean : (1) imaginary hobgoblin or terror used to frighten children into good conduct; bugbear
Ex : (i) It is psychologically impairing for children to be frightened with bugaboos.
(ii) The bugaboos of boredom, laziness and failure, keep the workaholic running.
Mean : (2) a source of concern; a recurring or persistent problem
Ex : The old bugaboo of inflation still bothers them.
Syn : Anathema; Bête noire; Bogeyman/Boogeyman
RW : **Bogy**



BULWARK (n)

Cue : **BULWARK** → **Bul** – 'earth' + **werk** – 'work' – a defensive wall
Mean : (1) a wall or embankment raised as a defensive fortification; a rampart
Ex : The high wall serves as a bulwark against attack.
Mean : (2) something serving as a defense or safeguard
Ex : My savings are to be a bulwark against unemployment.
Syn : Bastion; Embankment; Fort; Fortress; Outwork; Parapet; Rampart

BUOY (v)

- Mean :* (1) to keep afloat or aloft
- Ex :* (i) The life vest will keep her buoyed up while she is learning to swim.
(ii) The boat was tested for its buoyancy.
- Mean :* (2) to hearten or inspire; uplift; happy
- Ex :* (i) He was buoyed up by the team spirit.
(ii) She was in buoyant spirits and looking forward to the trip.
- Mean :* (3) to maintain at a high level; support; resilient
- Ex :* The property market is buoyant despite the recession

BURLESQUE (n/adj)

- Cue :* 'To mock something' would form the peg for this word
- Mean :* a type of writing or acting that tries to make something serious seem ridiculous; parody
- Ex :* (i) The comedians joined hands to make a burlesque presentation on the idiosyncrasies of the present day politicians.
(ii) The antics of the defense attorneys turned the trial into a burlesque of justice.
- Syn :* Caricature; Farce; Lampoon; Mockery; Parody; Pastiche; Revue; Satire; Travesty
- Ant :* Factual; Historical

BURNISH (v/n)

- Cue :* **BURNISH** → *burn* / *brun* – 'brown, bright, polished'
- Mean :* to make shiny or smooth by rubbing, to polish
- Ex :* (i) Burnish the car with wax.
(ii) I like that antique statue with a coppery burnish.
- Syn :* Furbish; Glaze; Gloss; Pumice; Scour
- Ant :* Corrode; Dull; Erode; Tarnish

BUTTRESS (bu-tris) (n/v)

- Cue :* Peg '**support**' with this word
- Mean :* (1) a projecting structure, generally of brick or stone, built against a wall to support or reinforce it
- Ex :* The north wall of the church has a beautiful stone buttress.
- Mean :* (2) to support or strengthen something
- Ex :* She needs to buttress her argument with more facts.
- Syn :* Back Up; Beef Up; Bolster; Bulwark; Prop; Reinforcement; Stanchion; Strengthen; Sustain; Uphold
- Ant :* Let down; Weaken
- RW :* **Buttress** differs from **bastion** and **bulwark** in the way that buttress acts as a supporting structure and the other words provide strong defense or protection

BYZANTINE (adj)

- Cue :* Byzantine refers to (a style developed in ancient city of Byzantium and E. Europe., characterized by domes over square areas, round arches, elaborate mosaics), **originally used of art style**; later generalised to anything that is '**complex**'
- Mean :* difficult to understand and complicated i.e. characterized by elaborate scheming and intrigue
- Ex :* The country's tax structure is Byzantine and tedious.
- Syn :* Complex; Convoluted; Devious; Intricate; Knotty; Labyrinthine; Tangled; Tortuous
- Ant :* Easy; Simple; Straightforward