

## LINKING UP THE WORDS (VOCAB)

# 'J'

### JACKASS (n)

**Cue :** J A C K A S S → *Jack* – 'male' + *ass* – 'donkey'

**Mean :** stupid person

**Ex :** Contrary to appearances, he is not a jackass.

**Syn :** Blockhead; Dolt

### JACTATION (n)

**Cue :** J A C T A T I O N → *Jactare/ jectare* – 'toss about/ throwing'

**Mean :** boasting, bragging; also relates to toss about

**Ex :** His jactation is laughed about at his back.

**RW :** *Abject; Inject; Reject*

### JADED (adj)

**Mean :** tired; worn-out; dulled or satiated, as from overindulgence

**Ex :** The jaded socialist was suffering from ennui.

**Syn :** Exhausted; Fatigued; Listless; Surfeited

**Ant :** Invigorated; Refreshed; Stimulated

**RW :** *Jade* (pale green colour)

### JANITOR (n)

**Cue :** J A N I T O R → *Janus* – 'gate/arched passageway' + *tor* – 'suffix – agent'

**Mean :** caretaker of a building, attendant, gatekeeper

**Ex :** The janitor of the building is absent today.

**RW :** *January* (beginning month of the year); *Janus* (guardian god of beginnings and endings)

### JAUNTY (adj)

**Cue :** J A U N T Y → *gentis* – 'genteel'

**Mean :** having an easy, sprightly manner

**Ex :** A jaunty salesman is most likely to notch up good sales.

**Syn :** Blithe; Dapper; Debonair; Vivacious

**Ant :** Reserved; Sedate; Staid

**RW :** *Jaunt* (to go on trip, excursion, journey for pleasure)

### JETTISON (v)

**Cue :** J E T T I S O N → *Jactare/ jectare* – 'toss about/ throw'

**Mean :** to toss/ throw cargo overboard; to lighten and save a ship

**Ex :** (i) The ship had to jettison lot of cargo to stabilize itself during the heavy sea-storm.

(ii) As the share index began to nose-dive, I jettisoned my entire share holding.

**Syn :** Discard; Exclude

**RW :** *Jetsam* (the cargo jettisoned); *Jetty* (a landing wharf)

### JIGSAW (n)

**Cue :** *Jig* + *saw* – 'a vertical reciprocating saw'

**Mean :** *jigsaw puzzle* → a puzzle involving pieces cut out in irregular pattern required to be put together to solve the puzzle

**Ex :** Let us all make an effort to solve this jigsaw puzzle.

**RW :** *Jig* (a form of jerky dance - e.g. performing a jig)

### JOCOSE (adj)

- Cue :** Relate with **Joke**  
**Mean :** full of jokes, wit, jocular, humorous  
**Ex :** His jocose manner managed to lighten the atmosphere a little, but many people thought it was unsuitable for such a solemn occasion.  
**Syn :** Comical; Facetious; Farcical; Ridiculous  
**Ant :** Grave; Morose; Serious; Solemn  
**RW :** **Jocular** (intended to cause amusement, joking); **Jocund** (genial, playful); **Jollity**; **Jovial** (full of hearty, playful good humor)

### JUDICIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **JUDICIOUS** → Relate with **judge**  
**Mean :** possessing sound judgement  
**Ex :** Judicious use of time and energy is the key to success.  
**Syn :** Astute; Expedient; Perspicacious; Prudent; Sagacious  
**Ant :** Impetuous; Impulsive; Imprudent; Injudicious; Rash  
**RW :** **Judicature** (administration of justice); **Prejudice**

### JUGGERNAUT (n)

- Cue :** **JUGGERNAUT** → Corrupted form of **Jagannath** – ‘ruling deity of Puri’. The massive **Jagannath rath yatra** (Chariot drive) so excited the devotees that they threw themselves under the huge wheels and got crushed  
**Mean :** huge force destroying everything in its path, a massive object  
**Ex :** The juggernaut of German warship Bismarck caused terror among the allied naval forces.

### JUGULAR (adj)

- Cue :** **JUGULAR** → **Junctus** – ‘to join’  
**Mean :** of neck (that joins the head to the trunk)  
**Ex :** The carnivores invariably go for the jugular parts of their prey (for an easy kill).  
**RW :** **Junction**; **Juncture**; **Jugular vein**

### JUNKET (n)

- Cue :** **JUNKET** → A picnic basket  
**Mean :** a pleasure trip / a picnic/ an excursion made at public expense  
**Ex :** The foreign junkets of VIP families are an unnecessary strain on public exchequer.  
**Syn :** Expedition  
**RW :** **Junk** (trivia)

### JURISPRUDENCE (n)

- Cue :** **JURISPRUDENCE** → **Juris** – ‘law’ + **prudence** – ‘knowledge, a foreseeing’ i.e. knowledge of law  
Also **Jur** – ‘to swear’  
**Mean :** the science of law and its administration; the system of laws  
**Ex :** The Chief Justice of India has expressed concern over the quality of jurisprudence especially in the lower courts.  
**RW :** **Jurisdiction**

# 'K'

## KALEIDOSCOPE (n)

**Cue :** **K A L E I D O S C O P E** → **Kalos** – 'beautiful' + **eidōs** – 'form' + **scope** – 'to see' i.e. observer of beautiful forms

**Mean :** (1) an optical toy showing variety of forms through reflection in mirrors of loose bits of coloured glass

(2) constant changes

**Ex :** Life is a Kaleidoscope.

## KEEL (n/v)

**Mean :** (1) the timber or steel structure along the base of a ship, on which the ship's framework is built, to prevent buckling/sagging

(2) to turn over so that the keel comes up (to keel over), capsize

(3) poised/ balanced (an even keel)

**Ex :** The union Budget is on an even keel.

**Syn :** Plunge; Stumble; Totter

**RW :** **Keelhaul** (to rebuke harshly – originally a punishment by hauling a person through water/land)

## KERNEL (n)

**Cue :** **Corn** i.e. core or central part of anything

**Mean :** (1) the softer, usually edible part inside the shell of a nut or fruit stone; the whole seed of a cereal

(2) the essential or most important part of

**Ex :** The kernel of the Presidential message was that peace should not be a source of advantage or disadvantage for anyone.

**Syn :** Core

**Ant :** Hull; Husk; Pod; Shell; Shuck

## KINDRED (adj)

**Cue :** **K I N D R E D** → **of your kind** – 'type'

**Mean :** (1) related, congruous, akin

(2) (For a person) who has the same opinions, feelings and interest as you

**Ex :** (i) Sharing a kindred temperament is rare among husbands and wives.

(ii) I have found a kindred spirit who likes wrestling as much as I do.

**Syn :** Allied; Germane

**RW :** **Kinship; Kinsman; Kith** (familiar friends); **Kin** (relatives or family)

## KINESICS (n)

**Cue :** **K I N E S I C S** → **kines** – 'movement' + **ics** – 'study'

**Mean :** study of body movements/ facial expressions as accompaniments to speech (body language)

**Ex :** His kinesics ooze out confidence.

**RW :** **Kinetic** (relating to motion, e.g. kinetic energy)

## KINK (n)

**Cue :** A bend, say, at **knee** – relate with 'kick'

**Mean :** (1) a short twist/ bend

(2) a mental twist/quirk

**Ex :** If a ruler goes by his kinks, he may play havoc with the governance.

**RW :** **Kinky** (sexually perverted / eccentric)

### KITSCH (n) (kich)

- Cue* : German - **Kitschen** – ‘to smear’  
*Mean* : work in any of the arts that is pretentious, inferior or in bad taste  
*Ex* : The kitsch provided by film magazines is despicable.  
*Syn* : Gaudiness; Trash  
*RW* : **Kitschy**

### KLEPTOMANIA (n)

- Cue* : **Kleiptein** – ‘thief/ theft’  
*Mean* : person who has a compulsive desire to steal (not driven by need)  
*Ex* : People suffering from kleptomania need counseling as well as psychiatric treatment.  
*Syn* : Pilferer  
*RW* : **Kleptocracy** (a government characterized by rampant greed and corruption)

### KNACK (n)

- Cue* : Relate with **knock** – ‘a sharp blow’  
*Mean* : a special skill/ talent/ way of doing things  
*Ex* : The knack of hitting the headlines often turns one into a celebrity.  
*Syn* : Dexterity; Proficiency; Trick  
*RW* : **Knap-sack** (rucksack - a bag strapped onto the shoulders); **Knick-knack** (trivial articles, small ornaments; this is the only word in English having four k's)

### KNAVE (n)

- Mean* : a deceitful fellow, a servant boy  
*Ex* : Money power turns a knave into a knight.  
*Syn* : Charlatan; Conman; Dishonest; Phony  
*RW* : **Knavish**

### KNOTTY (adj)

- Cue* : **KNOTTY** → full of knots  
*Mean* : intricate, difficult, hard to solve / explain  
*Ex* : Corruption is proving to be a knotty problem in India.  
*Syn* : Convoluted; Gnarled; Tangled

### KOWTOW (v)

- Cue* : **K O W T O W** → Chinese ..... **Ko** – ‘bump’ + **tou** – ‘head’  
*Mean* : (1) kneeling and touching the ground with forehead to show great deference/ servile respect  
(2) doing other's bidding  
*Ex* : You don't have to kowtow to every whim and fancy of your boss.  
*Syn* : Genuflect; Obsequious act

### KUDOS (n)

- Cue* : **K U D O S** → **kud** – ‘glory/ fame’  
*Mean* : credit or praise for an achievement; glory; fame  
*Ex* : Kudos to the boy who won the marathon.  
*Syn* : Adulation; Applause; Commendation; Credit; Honour

'L'

### LACHRYMOSE (adj)

*Cue* : **L A C H R Y M O S E** → **lacri** – 'tear' – a person inclined to shed tears  
*Mean* : a mournful character  
*Ex* : He is a morose and lachrymose character.  
*Ant* : Blithe; Cheerful; Gay; Lively

### LACKADAISICAL (adj)

*Cue* : **L A C K A D A I S I C A L** → **lack** + **dais** – 'day' – lack-a-day (spirit)  
*Mean* : lacking life, spirit or zest  
*Ex* : These lackadaisical efforts will take you nowhere.  
*Syn* : Enervated; Indolent; Languid; Lethargic; Listless; Sluggish  
*RW* : **Lackey** (errand runner)

### LACKLUSTRE (adj)

*Cue* : **L A C K L U S T R E** → **lack** + **lus/ lucere** – 'light/ shine'  
*Mean* : lacking gloss/ radiance; dull, dreary  
*Ex* : The lackluster performance of the previous government led to its defeat at the Hustings.  
*RW* : **Lustrous**

### LACONIC (adj)

*Cue* : Supposedly a resident of Laconia town, residents of which were known to be very brief and terse  
*Mean* : very brief and to the point  
*Ex* : A laconic reply is least expected of a salesman.  
*Syn* : Curt; Succinct; Terse  
*Ant* : Garrulous; Loquacious; Verbose

### LACUNA (n)

*Cue* : **L A C U N A** → **lacus** – 'a pit/ lake' – a missing portion/ a depression  
*Mean* : a cavity, gap, shortcoming  
*Ex* : There are several lacunae in the Indian Banking systems.  
*RW* : **Lacustrine** (pertaining to lake); **Lagoon** (a shallow water – body linked to a larger body); **Loch** (lake, land locked lagoon)

### LAISSEZ FAIRE (n)

*Cue* : French – **let do**  
*Mean* : a general principle of government non-interference in the economy  
*Ex* : Laissez faire is meant for mature economies handled by educated masses.

### LAITY (n)

*Cue* : **L A I T Y** → **lay** + **ity** – 'laymen'  
*Mean* : ordinary men, common masses  
*Ex* : The laity is, in fact, the backbone of an economy.  
*Ant* : Clergy; Gentry; Nobility  
*RW* : **Layette** (a clothing outfit for a newborn); **Lay-off** (dis-employ); **Lay-out** (arrangement)

### LAMPOON (n)

- Cue :** Relate with a lumpen act  
**Mean :** a personal satire, caricature, mocking  
**Ex :** The cartoonist turns lampooning into an art.  
**Ant :** Adulate; Commend; Exalt; Glorify  
**RW :** **Lambaste** (to beat soundly; thrash)

### LANGUID (n)

- Cue :** Relate with **lax**  
**Mean :** lacking in vigor and vitality  
**Ex :** A languid workforce is the biggest liability of the public sector.  
**Syn :** Drooping; Listless; Slack; Slothful; Sluggish  
**Ant :** Energetic; Vigorous  
**RW :** **Languish** (to become languid, losing animation, strength, Ex. – Languishing PSU's in India are a national drag; **Languor** (indolence, lassitude, lethargy)

### LAPSE (n/v)

- Mean :** (1) error of omission  
**Ex :** (i) The British followed the doctrine of lapse to annex princely states.  
(ii) This is a serious lapse on your part.  
**Mean :** (2) a passage of time  
**Ex :** The validity period of the contract has lapsed.  
**Mean :** (3) sink or slip gradually  
**Ex :** The patient lapsed into coma.  
**Syn :** Default; Error; Omission; Slip  
**RW :** **Elapse; Relapse**

### LARCENY (n)

- Cue :** **L A R C E N Y** → **larcin** – 'theft'  
**Mean :** theft, embezzlement, pilferage esp. of property  
**Ex :** The larceny of the public property could not have taken place without the connivance of revenue officials.

### LARGESSE (n)

- Cue :** **L A R G E S S E** → **large** – 'abundance'  
**Mean :** a gift generously given, bountiful reward  
**Ex :** The mysterious beneficiary of the largesse arouses suspicion.  
**Syn :** Bounty; Magnanimity  
**Ant :** Cheeseparing; Niggardliness; Stinginess; Triviality

### LATITUDE (n)

- Cue :** **L A T I T U D E** → **latus** – 'side / wide'  
**Mean :** (1) freedom from narrow limitations; broadmindedness  
(2) North / South distance from equator (in degrees)  
**Ex :** Too much latitude may spoil the children and turn them into squanderers.  
**Ant :** Confinement; Constraint; Curb; Restriction  
**RW :** **Lateral** (belonging to the sides); **Lateral thinking** (seeking new ways to look at a problem); **Latitudinarian** (a broadminded person); **Multilateral; Longitude** (east – west distance from the meridian (in degrees)

### LAUREATE (adj)

- Mean* : crowned with **laurels**  
*Ex* : Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore was a multilateral genius.  
*RW* : **Laud**; **Laudatory** (expressing praise)

### LEASE (v)

- Cue* : Original French **laissier** – ‘to release’  
*Mean* : to grant property for a term, on a charter, hire, rent  
*Ex* : Hong Kong was on a 100-year lease from China to Britain.  
*RW* : **Lax**; **Laxative**; **Leasehold**; **Leash**; **Lessee**; **Lesser** (one who gives or lease)

### LECTERN (n)

- Cue* : **LECTERN** → **legere** – ‘to read’  
*Mean* : podium for standing reader  
*Ex* : The audience was all ears towards the lectern.  
*RW* : **Lector** (lecturer); **Lyceum** (a hall for public lectures)

### LEEWAY (n)

- Mean* : room for freedom of action  
*Ex* : For a successful married life, each partner should allow leeway to the other.  
*Syn* : Latitude; Margin  
*RW* : **Leeward** (situated away from land)

### LEGEND (n)

- Cue* : **LEGEND** → **legere** – ‘to read’  
*Mean* : (1) a story, folklore, fable  
 (2) explanatory list of symbols on a map  
*Ex* : Legend has it that Ravana had ten heads.  
*RW* : **Legacy** (inheritance); **Legendary**; **Legion** (a unit of army/ ex-servicemen)

### LEGERDEMAIN (n)

- Cue* : **LEGERDEMAIN** → French – **leger** – ‘light’ + **de** – ‘of’ + **main** – ‘hand’ → light of hand  
*Mean* : sleight of hand, tricks of a magician  
*Ex* : Magic is nothing but legerdemain.  
*RW* : **Manual**; **Manuscript**

### LENITIVE (adj)

- Cue* : **LENITIVE** → **Levitus** – ‘to soften’  
*Mean* : alleviating pain or acrimony.  
*Ex* : His father’s sound advice acted as a lenitive for the agitated son.  
*RW* : **Leniency**; **Lenity** (leniency); **Sedative**

### LEUKEMIA (n)

- Cue* : **LEUKEMIA** → **leuk** – ‘leukocytes’ + **emia** – ‘condition or disease of the blood’  
*Mean* : blood cancer  
*Ex* : Leukemia is a dreadful disease.  
*RW* : **Anemia**; **Leukocytes** (white blood corpuscles)

### LEVEE (n)

- Cue :** **LEVEE** → **levare** – ‘to raise’  
**Mean :** embankment to prevent overflow of rivers  
**Ex :** The floods have seriously breached the levee system.  
**RW :** **Level; Lever**

### LEVITATION (n)

- Cue :** **LEVITATION** → **levis** – ‘lightness’  
**Mean :** (1) rising due to lightness  
 (2) an illusory raising of body without any physical support  
**Ex :** Some yogis are said to attain powers of levitation after years of penance.  
**RW :** **Alleviate; Leaven** (the fermentation and subsequent lightness and expansion/raising of dough due to substances like yeast); **Levity** (lightness of approach, lack of seriousness, frivolity, *ant*: solemnity)

### LEXICON (n)

- Mean :** the vocabulary book, word book  
**Ex :** The lexicon is a great help in language improvement.  
**Syn :** Glossary; Thesaurus  
**RW :** **Lexicographer**

### LIBERTARIAN (n)

- Cue :** **LIBERTARIAN** → **liber** – ‘free’  
**Mean :** an advocate of the doctrine of free will  
**Ex :** The libertarians have been ruthlessly crushed in China.  
**RW :** **Libertine** (debauched person i.e. free of morals)

### LICENTIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **LICENTIOUS** → **license**  
**Mean :** (1) disregarding accepted norms  
 (2) morally unrestrained, lewd, lascivious  
**Ex :** His licentious way of life proved to be his nemesis; he contracted HIV infection.  
**Syn :** Libertine; Libidinous

### LIEN (n)

- Cue :** **Ligare** – ‘to bind / tie’  
**Mean :** a right to possess a property unless the owner pays back a debt  
**Ex :** The bank took a lien on house property as security against the housing loan.  
**RW :** **Legato** (in music – smooth and connected i.e. without breaks); **Ligament** (a tough tissue connecting bones); **Ligature** (something that binds / ties); **Staccato** (in music – with distinctive breaks, related with stick)

### LIEU (n)

- Mean :** in place of  
**Ex :** He gave up his car in lieu of the loan amount.  
**RW :** **Lieutenant** (*lieu* + *tenant* → one who takes the place of a higher authority)



### LIGNEOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **L I G N E O U S** → *lign* – ‘wood’  
**Ex :** It looks ligneous, but is hard as stone.  
**RW :** **Lignite** (a form of brownish black soft coal having woody texture)

### LINCHPIN (n)

- Cue :** **L I N C H P I N** → *lei* – ‘to bend’ + *pin* – ‘a bent pin’  
**Mean :** (1) a locking pin inserted crosswise, as through the end of an axle to keep the wheel from coming off  
 (2) someone holding a group together  
**Ex :** The grand old man is the linchpin that has kept the family together.

### LINEAMENT (n)

- Cue :** **L I N E A M E N T** → *line* – ‘an outline of facial contours’  
**Mean :** features, distinguishing mark, contour  
**Ex :** The lineament of Brahms Symphony is its universal appeal.  
**RW :** **Lineal** (hereditary); **Liner** (a ship or an aeroplane); **Liniment** (ointment used externally to ease pain)

### LINGUA FRANCA (n)

- Cue :** **L I N G U A F R A N C A** → *Lingua* – ‘tongue / language’ *Franca* – ‘of France, meaning of Europe’  
**Mean :** common language for communication  
**Ex :** English has become the lingua franca of the world.  
**RW :** **Lingual** (produced by the tongue); **Linguist**, **Linguistics**

### LISSOME (adj)

- Cue :** Variant of **lithesome**  
**Mean :** nimble, flexible, supple, agile  
**Ex :** P.T. Usha was a lissome athlete.  
**Syn :** Limber; Lithe

### LITANY (n)

- Cue :** **litanos** – ‘pleading’  
**Mean:** a prayer consisting of repetitive recitations said alternately by a leader and a group  
**Ex :** There is invariably a litany of invocations at all religious congregations.

### LITERATI (n)

- Cue :** Relate with **literate**  
**Mean :** men and women of letters, scholarly people, intelligentsia  
**Ex :** The exhibition attracted the literati of the town.  
**RW :** **Literat**; **Literatim** (verbatim); **Liturgy** (rites for worship, rituals)

### LOATHE (v)

- Mean :** to dislike intensely  
**Ex :** Loathe sin, not the sinner.  
**Syn :** Abhor; Abominate; Detest; Despise; Hate  
**RW :** Loath (averse, disinclined, reluctant); Loathsome (disgusting / repulsive)

### LOCUS STANDI (n)

- Cue :** **LOCUS STANDI** → *locus* – ‘place / position’ + *standi* – ‘standing / status’  
**Mean :** the right to stand / interfere  
**Ex :** Being an outsider, you don’t have a locus standi in our family dispute.

### LOGISTICS (n)

- Cue :** **LOGISTICS** → *loger* – ‘to place’ + *ics* – ‘arrangement’. **Log** (study)  
**Mean :** related with arrangements for movement of men and materials  
**Ex :** Army maneuvers need support from logistics.  
**RW :** **Lodge** (boarder); **Loge** (a small cabin); **Loggerhead**; **Logic**; **Logistic**; **Logjam** (deadlock)

### LOQUACIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **LOQUACIOUS** → *loqui* – ‘to speak’  
**Mean :** excessively talkative  
**Ex :** You don’t have to be loquacious to be a successful salesman.  
**Syn :** Garrulous; Glib; Verbose  
**Ant :** Reticent; Taciturn; Uncommunicative  
**RW :** **Eloquence** (powerful speaking); **Interlocution**; **Locution** (phraseology)

### LUCRE (n)

- Cue :** Booty, gain, reward  
**Mean :** flush with money  
**Ex :** The lucre of the neo-rich spoils their children.  
**RW :** **Lucrative**; **Lucubration** (laborious study / meditation)

### LUDICROUS (adj)

- Cue :** **LUDICROUS** → *ludere* – ‘to play’  
**Mean :** provoking or deserving derision; amusingly absurd  
**Syn :** ridiculous; absurd; comical; outlandish  
**Ex :** His statements range from rash to ludicrous.  
**RW :** **Interlude**; **Ludo** (a game); **Prelude**

### LUMEN (n)

- Cue :** **LUMEN** → *lum* – ‘light’  
**Ex :** the brightness of a bulb can be measured in lumens  
**Mean :** a unit of light  
**RW :** **Limn** (to portray in drawing or words; describe); **Luminary** (a body emitting light / a dignitary); **Luminous**; **Lummox** (a clumsy, stupid person)

### LUSCIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** Relate with **delicious**  
**Mean :** highly gratifying to taste or smell, sensuous  
**Ex :** People added luscious details to the sordid rape case.  
**Syn :** Juicy; Succulent  
**Ant :** Bland; Shriveled; Withered  
**RW :** **Lush** (soft, succulent, profuse)

# 'M'

## MACADAM (adj)

- Cue** : Named after Scot. civil engineer **John L. McAdam** who gave us the modern concept of road-building
- Mean** : a paved surface having compressed layers of broken rocks held together with tar
- Ex** : The macadam surface has made traveling by road very smooth and fast.
- RW** : **Tarmac**

## MACERATE (v)

- Cue** : from Latin **macere** – 'to soften'
- Mean** : (1) to make soft by soaking or steeping in a liquid  
(2) to separate into constituents by soaking  
(3) to cause to become lean, usually by starvation; emaciate
- Ex** : The winemaker allowed the juice and skin of the grapes to macerate overnight before processing them.
- Syn** : Absorb; Drown; Dunk; Immerse; Marinate; Saturate
- RW** : **Lacerate** (to tear jaggedly; mangle)

## MACHIAVELLIAN (adj)

- Cue** : From the name of its originator Niccolo Machivellan
- Mean** : (1) of or relating to Machiavelli or Machiavellianism  
(2) Suggestive of or characterized by expediency, deceit, and cunning
- Ex** : Machiavellian thinking is most important for political gains today.
- Syn** : Crafty; Crooked; Cunning; Deceitful; Sneaking; Treacherous
- Ant** : Artless; Gullible; Ingenuous; Naive; Sincere

## MACHISMO (n)

- Cue** : From **macho** – 'extreme masculine sense'
- Mean** : (1) a strong or exaggerated sense of masculinity stressing attributes such as physical courage, virility, domination of women, and aggressiveness  
(2) an exaggerated sense of strength or toughness
- Ex** : Machismo is no longer considered an asset in today's generation.
- Syn** : Dude; Hunk; Macho; Potent; Stud; Virile
- Ant** : Prissy; Sissy; Womanlike

## MACROCOSM (n)

- Cue** : **MACROCOSM** → **macro** – 'large/great' + **cosmos**
- Mean** : (1) the whole universe  
(2) a large/overall picture/structure
- Ex** : In a way, family is a miniature parallel of the macrocosm of society.
- Syn** : Totality
- RW** : **Macrobiotics** (the science that deals with lengthening life as by organic diets grown without chemical treatment); **Macrophage** (a large amoeboid); **Macroscopic**

### MADONNA (n)

- Cue :** **M A D O N N A** → From Italian, *ma* – ‘my’ + *donna* – ‘lady’
- Mean :** (1) an image or figure of the Virgin Mary  
(2) used as a form of polite address for a married woman in an Italian-speaking area
- Ex :** The Sforza castle in Milan depicts a 6 ft tall sculpture by Michelangelo of Madonna and child.
- Syn :** Blessed Virgin Mary; Holy Mother; Mater Dolorosa; Mother of God; Our Lady
- RW :** **Prima Donna** (literally – first lady – the principal artist; also a vain woman)

### MAGNANIMOUS (adv)

- Cue :** **M A G N A N I M O U S** → *magnus* – ‘great’ + *animus* – ‘soul’
- Mean :** (1) courageously noble in mind and heart  
(2) Generous in forgiving; eschewing resentment or revenge; unselfish
- Ex :** He accepted defeat magnanimously by saying “The best man won”.
- Syn :** Altruistic; Benevolent; Chivalrous; Gracious; Liberal; Noble; Unselfish
- Ant :** Cold-hearted; Malevolent; Malicious; Mean; Misanthropic; Obdurate; Petty; Selfish; Unkind
- RW :** **Magnum opus**

### MAGNATE (n)

- Cue :** **M A G N A T E** → *magnus* – ‘great’
- Mean :** a powerful or influential person, especially in business or industry
- Ex :** In view of the high social status enjoyed by them, business magnates have a greater responsibility toward society.
- Syn :** Baron; Czar; Mogul; Tycoon
- Ant :** Commoner; Unimportant

### MAGNILOQUENT (adj)

- Cue :** **M A G N I L O Q U E N T** → *magnus* – ‘great’ + *loquent* – ‘speak’
- Mean :** lofty and extravagant in speech; grandiloquent
- Ex :** Politicians usually engage in magniloquent speech.
- Syn :** Aureate; Balderdash; Declamatory; Euphuistic; Flowery; Fustian; Grandiloquent; Loudmouth; Rhapsodic; Rhetorical; Verbose; Wordy
- Ant :** Humble; Quiet; Reserved; Restrained; Subtle; Understated
- RW :** **Eloquent; Grandiloquent; Magnificent; Magnitude**

### MAGNUM OPUS (n)

- Cue :** **M A G N U M O P U S** → *magnus* – ‘great’ + *opus* – ‘work’
- Mean :** (1) a great work, especially a literary or artistic masterpiece  
(2) the greatest single work of an artist, writer, or composer
- Ex :** ‘Paradise Lost’ is John Milton’s magnum opus.
- Syn :** Masterpiece
- RW :** **Magnum** (a large bottle for spirits)

### MALARIA (n)

- Cue :** **M A L A R I A** → *mal* – ‘bad’ + *aria* – ‘air’ – from the earlier belief that malaria is caused by bad air
- Mean :** a disease caused by parasitic protozoans, transferred to humans through anopheles mosquitoes
- Ex :** The spread of malaria is on the wane in economically developed economies, due to improved sanitation.
- RW :** **Maladroit; Mala fide** (in bad faith); **Malaise** (mal + ease – a physical / mental discomfort); **Malapropism** (habitual misuse of words); **Malediction; Malevolent; Malfeasance** (misconduct by a public official); **Malice; Malignant; Malingering** (pretending sickness to avoid work); **Malodor**

### MALLEABLE (adj)

- Cue :** **M A L L E A B L E** → **mallet** + **able** → 'capable of being shaped by hammering'
- Mean :** flexible, adaptable, impressionable
- Ex :** Gold is highly malleable.
- Syn :** Adaptable; Compliant; Ductile; Flexible
- Ant :** Inadaptable; Inflexible; Invariable; Nonconforming; Unbending
- RW :** **Mallet, Maul**

### MAMMON (n)

- Cue :** personification of 'riches' as a deity
- Mean :** the pursuit of riches and the belief that this is the most important thing in life
- Ex :** Worship of mammon is the creed of the day.

### MANACLE (n/v)

- Cue :** **M A N A C L E** → **manus** – 'hand'
- Mean :** (1) a device for confining the hands, usually consisting of a set of two metal rings that are fastened about the wrists and joined by a metal chain  
(2) Something that confines or restrains
- Ex :** The perpetrators of heinous crimes are often manacled to prevent their escape.
- Syn :** Bridle; Chain; Confine; Constrain; Curb; Curtail; Hold; Impound
- Ant :** Free; Loose; Loosen; Unbind; Unfasten; Unravel; Untie
- RW :** **Manicure; Manual; Manuscript**

### MANDATE (n/v)

- Cue :** **M A N D A T E** → **manus** – 'hand'
- Mean :** (1) an authoritative command or instruction (handed down)  
(2) power or authority given to the government by its people (handed over)
- Ex :** The new government has been mandated to rule for five years.
- Syn :** Consent; Permission; Sanction; Validation
- Ant :** Deny; Disallow; Disapprove; Invalidate; Oppose; Refuse; Reject
- RW :** **Mandatory** (required or commanded by authority; obligatory)

### MANDARIN (n)

- Cue :** From **mantrin** (councilor) in Sanskrit
- Mean :** a high government official or bureaucrat
- Ex :** It often seems that true power lies with the Civil Service mandarins, rather than with MPs and cabinet ministers.

### MANEUVER (n/v)

- Cue :** **M A N E U V E R** → **manus** – 'hand' + **oper** – 'work'
- Mean :** a skillful move
- Ex :** The army engages in a number of maneuvers to ensure its war-preparedness.
- Syn :** Plot; Scheme; Stratagem
- RW :** **Manacle; Manicure; Manual**

### MANGE (n)

- Cue :** from **manger** (trough for animals to eat)  
**Mean :** any of several chronic skin diseases of mammals caused by parasitic mites and characterized by skin lesions, itching, and loss of hair  
**Ex :** Mange, if not treated properly can lead to severe complications in the pet.  
**RW :** **Mangy** (filthy or mean); **Manger** (container from which the animals take their feed)

### MANIFESTATION (n)

- Cue :** **MANIFESTATION** → **manus** – ‘hand’ + **fest** – ‘strike’ → ‘literally struck with a hand’  
**Mean :** an indication of the existence, reality, or presence of something  
**Ex :** His insomnia is a manifestation of his deep depression.  
**Syn :** Clue; Example; Expression; Illustration; Reflection  
**Ant :** Ambiguity; Latency; Mystery; Obscurity  
**RW :** **Fist, Infest, Manifest, Manifesto**

### MANOR (n)

- Mean :** (1) a landed estate belonging to a lord  
 (2) the main house on an estate  
**Ex :** The Lord’s manor was auctioned to recover unpaid debts.  
**Syn :** Chateau; Estate  
**RW :** **Mansion**

### MANSUETUDE (n)

- Cue :** **MANSUETUDE** → **manus** – ‘hand’ + **suetus** – ‘to grow accustomed’  
**Mean :** Gentleness, Mildness  
**Ex :** The bride’s mansuetude was highly appreciated by her in-laws.

### MANUMIT (v)

- Cue :** **MANUMIT** → **manus** – ‘hand’ + **emit** – ‘to set free’  
**Mean :** to free from slavery or bondage; emancipate  
**Ex :** He worked hard to manumit women in rural India.  
**Syn :** Absolve; Acquit; Free; Liberate  
**Ant :** Capture; Confine; Enslave; Incarcerate

### MARINATE (v)

- Cue :** **MARINATE** → **marine** – ‘of the sea’  
**Mean :** to soak food in a liquid before boiling  
**Ex :** Marinated food gets cooked quicker.  
**Syn :** Douse; Immerse; Souse dunk  
**RW :** **Mariner** (sailor); **Marina** (a yacht station); **Marinade** (the soaking liquid); **Maritime** (pertaining to the sea); **Marsh, Mermaid**

### MARSHAL (v)

- Cue :** **marah** – ‘horse/mare’ + **scalh** – ‘servant’  
**Mean :** (1) a military officer of the highest rank in some countries  
 (2) to arrange, place, or set in methodical order  
**Ex :** I tried to marshal all facts in preparation for my exam

**Syn** : (i) provost  
(ii) Align; Arrange; Collate; Collect; Consolidate  
**Ant** : Disperse; Dissemble; Scatter  
**RW** : **Mare**

### MARTIAL (adj)

**Cue** : From **Mars** – Roman god of war. Also relate with martial arts  
**Mean** : characteristic of or relating to war  
**Ex** : The martial law remained in force for well over six months after the military coup.  
**Syn** : Combative; Military; Warlike

### MARTINET (n)

**Cue** : After French **General Jean Martinet**  
**Mean** : (1) a rigid military disciplinarian  
(2) one who demands absolute adherence to forms and rules  
**Ex** : Army generals are usually martinets.  
**Syn** : Authoritarian; Commander; Disciplinarian  
**Ant** : Democrat; Liberal

### MASCOT (n)

**Cue** : **masculus** → 'ghost, later taken to mean a talisman'  
**Mean** : a person, animal, or object believed to bring good luck  
**Ex** : The giant panda is the mascot of their team.  
**Syn** : Amulet; Charm; Talisman  
**RW** : **Mask; Masquerade**

### MASOCHISM (n)

**Cue** : After **Sacher Masoch** who described this psychiatric condition  
**Mean** : the deriving of pleasure from being physically or emotionally abused, especially out of injury inflicted upon self  
**Ex** : According to Freud, childhood neglect leads to masochism.  
**RW** : **Sadism**

### MASTICATE (v)

**Cue** : A tree yielding **chewing gum**  
**Mean** : (1) to chew (food)  
(2) to grind and knead (rubber, for example) into a pulp  
**Ex** : Some Ayurvedic drugs need to be masticated.  
**Syn** : Munch; Ruminant  
**RW** : **Masticatory** (medicine to promote secretion of saliva through chewing)

### MATRON (n)

**Cue** : **M A T R O N** → From **matrī** – 'mother'  
**Mean** : (1) a married woman or a widow, especially a mother of dignity, mature age, and established social position  
(2) a woman who acts as a supervisor or monitor in a public institution, such as a school, hospital, or prison  
**Ex** : The matron of a hostel or hospital has to be tactful but strict.  
**RW** : **Alma mater; Matriarchal; Matriarchy; Matricide; Matrix** (parent stem)

**MAUDLIN (adj)**

- Cue* : After **Mary Magdalene**, portrayed in art as a weeping penitent  
*Mean* : effusively or tearfully sentimental  
*Ex* : She showed maudlin expressions of sympathy.  
*Syn* : Emotional; Lachrymose; Mushy

**MAVERICK (n)**

- Cue* : After **Samuel Maverick** who refused to brand his cattle as per common practice  
*Mean* : a non-conformist, unorthodox person  
*Ex* : Bobby Fisher, a maverick, never played an international tournament after winning the world chess championship.  
*Ant* : Conformist; Orthodox

**MAWKISH (adj)**

- Cue* : **M A W K I S H** → Like a *mawk* (moth) – ‘gnawing vermin’  
*Mean* : sickening, insipid, sickeningly sentimental  
*Ex* : Your mawkish demeanor puts me off.  
*Syn* : Maudlin; Mushy; Nauseating  
*Ant* : Exhilarating; Invigorating; Refreshing  
*RW* : **Maggot, Moth**

**MAXIM (n)**

- Cue* : **M A X I M** → *maximus* → ‘the greatest proposition’  
*Mean* : a truth stated pithily, saying  
*Ex* : The Bible and the Bhagvada Gita are replete with spiritual maxims.  
*Syn* : Adage; Aphorism  
*RW* : **Axiom; Maximum**

**MAYHEM (n)**

- Cue* : Akin to **maim**  
*Mean* : (1) inflicting injury with intent to mutilate  
(2) a violent destruction or confusion  
*Ex* : There was mayhem at the site of the accident.  
*RW* : **Maim**

**MEANDER (v)**

- Cue* : After the river ‘**Meanderes**’, noted for its winding course  
*Mean* : to wander aimlessly in movement or in speech  
*Ex* : Narmada meanders through the Vindhayas.  
*Syn* : Convolute; Ramble; Wend; Wind

**MEDIEVAL (adj)**

- Cue* : **M E D I E V A L** → *medi* – ‘middle’ + *eval* – ‘time/age’  
*Mean* : of the middle ages  
*Ex* : Medieval Europe was notorious for its barbarism.  
*RW* : **Media; Median; Mediate; Mediocre; Mediterranean; Meridian** – literally mid-day



### MEDLEY (n)

- Cue :** **M E D L E Y** → *medlee* – ‘to mix’  
**Mean :** a mixture of heterogeneous elements. An assortment of music  
**Ex :** The medley of events at the athletic meet could not attract spectators in great numbers.  
**Syn :** Conglomeration; Jumble; Mélange; Potpourri  
**RW :** **Meddle; Melee**

### MEGALOMANIAC (n)

- Cue :** **M E G A L O M A N I A C** → *mega* – ‘large, great (also the number one million)’ + *mania* – ‘obsession’  
**Mean :** a person suffering from a condition of obsessive delusions of grandeur; a passion for doing big  
**Ex :** The breed of megalomaniacs is on the increase.  
**RW :** **Megacephalic** (large-headed); **Megahertz** (a million cycles per second); **Megalith** (huge stone / rock); **Megalopolis; Megaphone** (a device for magnifying the sound)

### MELANCHOLY (n)

- Cue :** **M E L A N C H O L Y** → *melano* – ‘black, gloomy’ + *choly* – ‘bile’  
**Mean :** a gloomy, sorrowful state of mind  
**Ex :** Ecstasy and melancholy are part of life.  
**Syn :** Dejected; Depressed; Dispirited  
**Ant :** Delight; Ecstasy  
**RW :** **Melancholia** (depression); **Melanic** (adj –dark or black); **Melanin** (a dark pigment as in human hair)

### MELLIFLUOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **M E L L I F L U O U S** → *mel* – ‘honey’ + *flu* – ‘flow’ → ‘flowing / sweetened with honey’  
**Mean :** sweetly flowing; very smooth  
**Ex :** The mellifluous tunes of Beatles made them living legends of pop music.  
**Syn :** Euphonious; Melodious  
**RW :** **Ameliorate; Meliority** (superiority); **Melliferous** (honey-bearing); **Mellow; Melody; Melorism** (the doctrine that human effort makes the world better); **Mildew** (a plant fungus)

### MENDACITY (n)

- Cue :** **M E N D A C I T Y** → *mend* – ‘a flaw’  
**Mean :** untruthfulness, falsity  
**Ex :** He is a compulsive liar. His mendacity is well known.  
**Syn :** Prevarication  
**RW :** **Amend; Mendacious**

### MENDICANT (adj)

- Cue :** **M E N D I C A N T** → Formerly of a religious sect that depended on charity  
**Mean :** a beggar  
**Ex :** To Churchill, Gandhi Ji was all but a mendicant in a loin cloth.  
**Syn :** Begging friar; Pauper  
**RW :** **Mendacity**

### MERCANTILE (adj)

- Cue :** **M E R C A N T I L E** → **Mercans** – ‘buyer’ or *merx* – ‘goods’  
**Mean :** Related to merchants, commercial activity  
**Ex :** A mercantile attitude towards friends and acquaintances is most deplorable  
**RW :** **Mercenary, Merchandising** – planning, advertising and other activities to promote sales

### MERCURIAL (adj)

- Cue :** **Mercurius** – Roman god of commerce, eloquence and travel. Also changeable, **active ‘like mercury’**  
**Mean :** (1) lively or quick  
 (2) flexible, fickle  
**Ex :** (i) The mercurial chief executive has been largely instrumental in the company’s success.  
 (ii) Mercurial government policy creates instability.  
**Syn :** Agile; Enthusiastic; Fluctuating; Sprightly  
**Ant :** Rigid; Stable; Steady

### MERETRICIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **M E R E T R I C I O U S** → *merere* – ‘to earn’ + *trix* – ‘show’ → **a show for money**  
**Mean :** alluring by vulgar attractions  
**Ex :** Harlots often indulge in meretricious acts to attract customers.  
**Syn :** Flashy; Garish; Gaudy; Tawdry

### MESMERIZE (v)

- Cue :** Hypnotism as induced by **Dr. Franz Mesmer** through magnetism, compelling attraction  
**Mean :** (1) to Hypnotize  
 (2) to fascinate, captivate  
**Ex :** Her charm has a mesmerizing quality.  
**Syn :** Cast a spell; Stupefy

### METAMORPHOSE (v)

- Cue :** **M E T A M O R P H O S E** → *meta* – ‘after/beyond’ + *morph* – ‘transformation’  
**Mean :** complete change of form, structure or substance  
**Ex :** The pupa metamorphoses into butterflies.  
**Syn :** Mutate; Transmute  
**RW :** **Anabolism** (Processes of change of food into body tissue); **Catabolism** (Processes of change of living tissue into energy); **Metabolism** (physical and chemical processes in organisms); **Meta-mathematics** (the logical analysis of the fundamental concepts of numbers); **Metamorphosis**; **Metaphor** (literally, to transfer); **Metaphrase** (Paraphrase, translate); **Meta-physics** (abstract philosophy, as of Aristotle); **Meta-psychology**; **Metastasis** (transfer of disease bearing organisms through blood etc.) **Metathesis** (transposition of letters and syllables in a word)

### MICROCOSM (n)

- Cue :** **M I C R O C O S M** → *micro* – ‘small’ + *cosmos*  
**Mean :** (1) a world in miniature (a miniature that has all the features of the larger whole)  
 (2) theory treating human beings at the center of universe  
**Ex :** The family is a microcosm of society.  
**Ant :** Macrocosm  
**RW :** **Microanalysis**; **Microbe**; **Microlite** (microscopic crystal); **Micrology** (undue attention to petty detail); **Micron** (one millionth of a meter); **Microscope**

### MINCE (v)

**Cue :** **MINCE** → **min** – 'Small'

**Mean :** (1) to cut into small pieces  
(2) to soften or moderate  
(3) to act with affected elegance

**Ex :** He does not mince words and comes to the point straightaway

**RW :** **Mince–meat**; **Mincing** – Affectedly dainty; **Minion** – a person of minor importance; **Minuend** – a number from which another is subtracted; **Minuscule**; **Minutely**

### MIRAGE (n)

**Cue :** **Mir**(ror) – 'reflection'

**Mean :** (1) an optical illusion where distant objects appear inverted; an unreal reflection  
(2) something illusory

**Ex :** Elimination of poverty, hundred per cent literacy etc. have become a mirage in our country.

### MISCEGENATION (n)

**Cue :** **MISCEGENATION** → **mis** – 'mistaken/mix' + **gen** – 'race/species'

**Mean :** a marriage between people of different races

**Ex :** The Anglo Indians are the product of miscegenation.

**RW :** **Misappropriate**; **Misbegotten**; **Misbehave**; **Miscellaneous**; **Mischief** (mis + achieve); **Miscible**; **Miscue**; **Misdemeanor**; **Misfeasance** (The wrongful performance of a normally lawful act.); **Misgivings**; **Mishap**; **Misnomer**

### MITE (n)

**Mean :** (1) very small object or creature  
(2) small coin (figuratively small amount)

**Ex :** (i) Cockroaches are among the most ancient mites  
(ii) We should contribute our mite to a noble cause

**RW :** **Mitigate**; **Termite**

### MNEMONIC (adj)

**Cue :** **Mnemosyne** (Greek goddess of memory)

**Mean :** Meant to aid one's memory

**Ex :** Numbers, words, things etc. can be remembered through mnemonic tricks.

**RW :** **Amnesia** (Loss of memory); **Mnemonics** (Science dealing with the techniques for developing one's memory)

### MODUS–OPERANDI (n)

**Cue :** Latin expression **mode** + **opus**

**Mean :** the manner of operating/functioning

**Ex :** The modus–operandi of the crime was a clear pointer to the hand of mafia.

**RW :** **Modus–Vivendi** (Manner of living; also a temporary agreement)

### MOLLIFY (v)

**Cue :** **MOLLIFY** → **moll** – 'to crush / soften' + **fy / fac** – 'make'

**Mean :** to soften ruffled feelings

**Ex :** Her pleasant talk mollified the boss.

**Syn :** Appease; Assuage; Placate

**RW :** **Emollient**; **Mollycoddle**

### MONODY (n)

- Cue :** **MONODY** → *mono* – ‘single’ + *ode* – ‘poem’ → **singing alone**
- Mean :** (1) an ode sung by a single voice, as in a tragedy; lament  
(ii) in music, style of composition in homophony, as distinguished from polyphony
- Ex :** The sole surviving Beetle now sings monodies in the memory of his deceased friends
- RW :** **Monarchy; Monochromatic; Monolithic; Monocle; Monocracy; Monogamist; Monogram**  
(Two or more letters interlaced to signify brand); **Monologue; Monomania; Monopoly; Monopsony; Monotheism; Monotonous**

### MORATORIUM (n)

- Cue :** **MORATORIUM** → *mor/mort* – ‘death’
- Mean :** temporary cessation of activity
- Ex :** In a democracy the government simply cannot put moratorium on strikes.
- RW :** **Immortal; Morbidity** (the proportion of sickness or death); **Morgue; Moribund** (In a dying state); **Mortal; Mortgage; Mortician** (Undertaker); **Mortify; Mortuary**

### MORDANT (adj)

- Cue :** **MORDANT** → *mordre* – ‘to bite’
- Mean :** (1) caustic or biting  
(2) any corrosive substance
- Ex :** Celebrities fear the mordant coverage of their private life by the press.
- Syn :** Bitter; Sharp; Stringent
- RW :** **Mordacious; Moron** (A feeble-minded person); **Morose** (gloomy, ill-humored person)

### MOTE (n)

- Mean :** a speck or particle as of dust
- Ex :** If you make a man stand at the sea shore or at the foot of a mountain or in a dense forest, he will soon realize his position as being even smaller than a mote
- RW :** **Motif** (a distinctive and recurring form, shape, etc.; a theme); **Motley** (consisting of heterogeneous, assorted, diverse elements); **Mottled** (Spotted)

### MOTILITY (n)

- Cue :** **MOTILITY** → *mot* – ‘to move’
- Mean :** ability to move spontaneously
- Ex :** (i) Motility of spores is so remarkable that they can travel for miles before taking rest.  
(ii) Certain organisms are astonishingly motile.
- Syn :** Movement
- Ant :** Stagnation; Stasis
- RW :** **Demote; Motion; Motorcade** (Motor + Cavalcade); **Promote**

### MUGGY (adj)

- Cue :** **MUGGY** → *mug* – ‘mist’
- Mean :** foggy, damp, oppressive atmosphere
- Ex :** The muggy climate of Mumbai in May is sometimes intolerable
- Syn :** Sappy; Sultry
- Ant :** Dry
- RW :** **Muck** (farmyard dung, decaying vegetable matter in a moist state; filth); **Mug** (Slang – a thug; ruffian); **Mulch** (a covering of manure or straw around plant-roots to prevent excessive evaporation or erosion); **Murky** (misty, hazy, gloomy)

### MUNDANE (adj)

- Mean* : of or pertaining to earthly matters  
*Ex* : We get so engrossed in mundane affairs that we hardly have time for spiritual pursuits.  
*Syn* : Materialistic; Prosaic; Temporal  
*Ant* : Celestial; Divine; Supernal

### MUSE (v)

- Cue* : **MUSE** → *musus* – ‘mouth’  
*Mean* : to study in silence, to meditate  
*Ex* : William Wordsworth mused over the beauty of daffodils well after he had visited the blessed vale  
*Syn* : Meditate; Ponder; Reflect  
*RW* : **Museum; Music; Musings; Muzzle** (The mouth as of a gun)

### MUTABLE (adj)

- Cue* : **MUTABLE** → *mut* – ‘change’  
*Mean* : variable, subject to change  
*Ex* : The mutable government policies keep the investors at bay.  
*Syn* : Fickle; Protean; Unsteady; Vacillating; Wavering  
*Ant* : Constant; Stable; Steady  
*RW* : **Mutation; Mutatis–Mutandis** (Latin expression meaning, the necessary changes have been made); **Mute** (To muffle or reduce the intensity); **Mutual** (Interchange)

### NADIR (n)

- Cue* : From Arabic *nazir (opposite)* – ‘opposite of zenith’  
*Mean* : an extreme state of adversity, the lowest point of anything  
*Ex* : Their fortunes have touched the nadir.  
*Syn* : Depth(s); Foot; Lowest point  
*Ant* : Apex; Peak; Pinnacle; Roof; Summit; Top; Zenith

### NAG (v)

- Cue* : From *gnaw* – ‘to bite’  
*Mean* : to annoy by continual scolding, faultfinding, complaining, urging, etc  
*Ex* : The half-remembered quotation nagged at my mind.  
*Syn* : Annoy; Pester; Vex

### NARCISSISM (n)

- Cue* : From *Narcissus* - A young man who pined away in love for his own image in a pool of water and was transformed into the flower that bears his name  
*Mean* : excessive love or admiration of oneself  
*Ex* : His narcissism allows him to live in a world of make-believe.  
*Syn* : Arrogance; Pomposity; Self-admiration; Vainglory; Vanity

### NASCENT (adj)

- Cue** : **Nasci** – ‘to be born’  
**Mean** : beginning to form, start, grow, or develop: said of ideas, cultures, etc  
**Ex** : At the time of the Indo-China war, India was still a nascent republic.  
**Syn** : Emergent; Emerging; Incipient  
**RW** : **Renaissance; Nee**

### NATAL (adj)

- Cue** : **Nasci** – ‘to be born’  
**Mean** : of, relating to, or accompanying birth  
**Ex** : Natal injuries ought to be taken pretty seriously.  
**Syn** : Hereditary; Implanted; Inborn; Inbred; Indigenous  
**Ant** : Acquired; Learned  
**RW** : **Innate; Neonate**

### NATATION (n)

- Cue** : **Nare** – ‘to swim’  
**Mean** : the act or art of swimming  
**Ex** : He is a state champion in notation.  
**Syn** : Swimming  
**RW** : **Natant; Natatorial; Natatorium** (indoor swimming pool)

### NATTY (adj)

- Cue** : Obsolete form of **neaty (neat)** – ‘elegant’  
**Mean** : trim and smart in appearance or dress  
**Ex** : He was dressed in a natty suit.  
**Syn** : Chic; Smart; Well-dressed  
**RW** : **Nattily; Nattiness**

### NAUSEA (n)

- Cue** : **NAUSEA** → **Naus** – ‘a ship’ – originally sea-sickness  
**Mean** : a feeling of sickness at the stomach, with an impulse to vomit  
**Ex** : Roller coasters may generate nausea.  
**Syn** : Queasiness; Sickness; Vomiting  
**RW** : **Nauseating; Nauseous; Navy; Nautical**

### NAVE (n)

- Cue** : **NAVE** → the hub of a wheel  
**Mean** : In the middle  
**Ex** : He loves to be in the nave of matters.  
**Syn** : Core; Hub; Middle  
**RW** : **Navel**

### NECROMANCY (n)

- Cue** : **NECROMANCY** → **necro** – ‘death’ + **mancy** – ‘divination’  
**Mean** : witch craft; communication with the dead  
**Ex** : Some people still believe in acts of witchcraft like necromancy.  
**RW** : **Necrology; Necrolatory** (worship of, or excessive reverence for, the dead); **Necrophagous** (feeding on the dead); **Necropolis** (large cemetery); **Necropsy** (autopsy); **Necrosis** (disease relating to death of a tissue)

### NEMESIS (n)

- Cue** : The goddess of divine retribution  
**Mean** : (1) a source of harm and ruin  
 (2) an opponent that cannot be beaten or overcome. One that inflicts retribution or vengeance  
**Ex** : Uncritical trust is my nemesis  
**Syn** : Atrophy; Bane

### NEOLOGISM (n)

- Cue** : **NEOLOGISM** → *neo* – ‘new’ + *logy* – ‘speech/study’ + *ism*  
**Mean** : the creation or use of new words or senses of existing words  
**Ex** : Motel is a neologism, derived from the words ‘motor’ and ‘hotel’.  
**Syn** : Coinage; Neology; New phrase  
**RW** : **Biology; Dialogue; Neologistic**

### NEOPHYTE (n)

- Cue** : **NEOPHYTE** → *neo* – ‘new’ + *phyt* – ‘produce’  
**Mean** : one just beginning a new kind of life, work, etc  
**Ex** : He is a neophyte; he needs a little time to pick up the nuances of salesmanship.  
**Syn** : Amateur; Beginner; Novice; Tyro

### NEOTERIC (adj)

- Cue** : **NEOTERIC** → *neo* – ‘new’  
**Mean** : of recent origin; modern  
**Ex** : The content of the book is based on a rather neoteric philosophical thought.  
**Syn** : Brand-new; Newfangled; Novel; Original

### NESCIENT (n)

- Cue** : **NESCIENT** → *ne* – ‘nil/not’ + *science* – ‘knowledge’  
**Mean** : Lacking in knowledge or awareness; ignorant  
**Ex** : His nescient ways led to a big loss for his firm.  
**Syn** : Agnostic

### NESTLE (vi)

- Cue** : From **nest**  
**Mean** : to settle down comfortably and snugly  
**Ex** : The little boy nestled against his mother and slept peacefully.  
**Syn** : Cuddle; Nuzzle; Snuggle

### NETTLE (n)

- Cue** : From **ned** – ‘to twist together’ – a family of weeds with stinging hairs  
**Mean** : to irritate or annoy  
**Ex** : The bitter remark of his boss kept nettling him for days.  
**Syn** : Annoy; Irritate; Pester  
**RW** : **Nettlesome** (causing irritation; easily provoked)

### NEURASTHENIA (n)

- Cue :** **NEURASTHENIA** → *neuro* – ‘of nerves’ + *asthenia* – ‘lack of bodily strength’  
**Mean :** characterized by chronic fatigue and weakness, loss of memory, and generalized aches  
**Ex :** The octogenarian is suffering from neurasthenia and needs intensive care.  
**Syn :** Nervousness  
**RW :** **Neurasthenic; Neuron** (nerve cell); **Neurotic**

### NIHILISM (n)

- Cue :** **NIHILISM** → *nihil* – ‘nothing’  
**Mean :** (1) an extreme form of skepticism that denies all existence  
 (2) a doctrine holding that all values are baseless and that nothing can be known or communicated  
**Ex :** Nihilism has no place in modern progressive thinking.  
**Syn :** Pessimism  
**RW :** **Annihilation; Nihilist**

### NIT-PICKING (adj)

- Cue :** **NIT-PICKING** → *nit* – ‘louse egg or young louse’ + *picking* – ‘doing petty things’  
**Mean :** to be concerned with or finding fault with insignificant details  
**Ex :** Her constant nit picking drove me mad.  
**Syn :** Captious; Censorious; Faultfinding; Hypercritical; Pettifogging

### NOCTURNAL (adj)

- Cue :** **noctis** – ‘night’  
**Mean :** of, relating to, or occurring in the night  
**Ex :** Nocturnal animals are active at night.  
**Ant :** Diurnal  
**RW :** **Nocturne** – a romantic or dreamy musical composition appropriate to the night

### NOISOME (adj)

- Cue :** **NOISOME** → From *annoy* + *some* – ‘tending to be’  
**Mean :** offensive to the point of arousing disgust, harmful or dangerous  
**Ex :** The noisome odor is almost unbearable.  
**Syn :** Baneful; Pernicious; Unwholesome  
**Ant :** Moral; Pleasant

### NOM DE PLUME (n)

- Cue :** **NOM DE PLUME** → *nom* – ‘name’ + *de* – ‘of’ + *plume* – ‘pen’  
**Mean :** a fictitious name esp. used by a writer  
**Ex :** Amit writes under the nom-de-plume of ‘A Myth’.  
**Syn :** Pen name; Pseudonym  
**RW :** **Nom de guerre; Nomenclature**

### NONAGENARIAN (adj)

- Cue :** **NONAGENARIAN** → *nonageni* – ‘ninety each’  
**Mean :** a person 90 years old or between 90 and 100 years old  
**Ex :** Most occupants of the old age nursing home are nonagenarian.



### NONCHALANT (adj)

- Cue :** **non** – ‘not’ + **chaloir** – ‘to care for’  
**Mean :** seeming to be coolly unconcerned or indifferent  
**Ex :** A nonchalant person is not likely to become warm or heated about anything.  
**Syn :** Apathetic; Casual; Cool; Imperturbable; Indifferent; Insouciant; Lackadaisical; Unconcerned; Unruffled  
**Ant :** Anxious; Attentive; Concerned  
**RW :** **Nonchalance; Noncommittal; Nondescript**

### NONPAREIL (adj)

- Cue :** **NON PAREIL** → **non** + **pareil** – ‘equal’  
**Mean :** a person or thing that has no equal, someone or something unequaled or unrivaled  
**Ex :** The Yankees have a center forward who is virtually nonpareil.  
**Syn :** Model; Paragon; Pick; Prime  
**Ant :** Loser  
**RW :** **Compare; Parity**

### NONPLUS (n)

- Cue :** **NON PLUS** → **non** – ‘not’ + **plus** – ‘more’  
**Mean :** (1) to put at a loss as to what to think, say, or do, bewilder  
 (2) a state of perplexity, confusion, or bewilderment  
**Ex :** Diana’s candid interview nonplussed many  
**Syn :** Amaze; Baffle; Bewilder; Dumbfound; Flummox; Perplex; Puzzle

### NON SEQUITUR (n)

- Cue :** **NON SEQUITUR** → **non** – ‘not’ + **sequi** – ‘follow’  
**Mean :** (1) a reply that has no relevance to what preceded it  
 (2) (logic) a conclusion that does not follow from the premises  
**Ex :** His reply to the reporter’s query was non sequitur.  
**Syn :** Ambiguity; Equivocation; Fallacy; Illogical conclusion  
**Ant :** Truth; Understanding; Verity  
**RW :** **Sequel**

### NOSEGAY (n)

- Cue :** **NOSEGAY** → **nose** + **gay** – ‘gay object for the nose’  
**Mean :** a small arrangement of flowers that is usually given as a present  
**Ex :** A nosegay was presented to the chief guest.  
**Syn :** Posy

### NOSTALGIA (n)

- Cue :** **nostos** – ‘a return home’  
**Mean :** (1) a bittersweet longing for things, persons, or situations of the past  
 (2) the condition of being homesick  
**Ex :** I felt very nostalgic when I visited my school after fifteen years.  
**Syn :** Homesickness; Wistfulness

### NOTA BENE

- Cue :** **NOTA BENE** → *nota* – ‘note’ + *bene* – ‘well’ - note well/take notice  
**Mean :** used to direct attention to something particularly important  
**Ex :** The margins of his book were generously supplied with Nota Benes in pencil.  
**RW :** **Notarize**

### NOUVEAU RICHE (n)

- Cue :** **NOUVEAU RICHE** → *nouveau* – ‘newly’ + *riche* – ‘rich’  
**Mean :** one who has recently become rich, especially one who flaunts newly acquired wealth  
**Ex :** The sons of nouveaux riches often indulge in vulgar display of their new-found riches.  
**Syn :** Nouveau arrive; Parvenu

### NOVICE (n)

- Cue :** **novus** – ‘new’  
**Mean :** a person new to a field or activity, a beginner  
**Ex :** One should be considerate towards the novices and afford them a chance to learn.  
**Syn :** Amateur; Apprentice; Beginner; Neophyte  
**Ant :** Expert; Professional; Veteran  
**RW :** **Innovation; Novelty**

### NOXIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** From *noxa* – ‘harm’  
**Mean :** harmful to the health, harmful to the mind or morals  
**Ex :** Noxious chemical wastes are often discharged into the water bodies, putting public health to risk.  
**Syn :** Baneful; Deleterious; Pernicious  
**Ant :** Benign; Harmless; Healthful; Healthy; Innocuous  
**RW :** **Obnoxious; Pernicious**

### NUGATORY (adj)

- Cue :** From *nugari* – ‘to trifle’  
**Mean :** of little or no importance, trifling  
**Ex :** The students treated the talk of the principal regarding need for discipline just nugatory.  
**Syn :** Inadequate; Piddling; Trifling; Worthless  
**Ant :** Great; Important; Serious  
**RW :** **Nugget**

### NULLIFY (vt)

- Cue :** **NULLIFY** → *null* – ‘none’ + *facere* – ‘to make, do’  
**Mean :** (1) to make null, invalidate  
 (2) to counteract the force or effectiveness of  
**Ex :** An act loses its legal force once it is nullified.  
**Syn :** Annul; Invalidate; Quash; Repeal; Void  
**Ant :** Validate  
**RW :** **Annul**

### NUMISMATIST (adj)

- Cue :** **NUMISMATIST** → *nomisma* – ‘a coin’  
**Mean :** a person who studies or collects coins and often medals  
**Ex :** The numismatist’s collection is unique because the historical details of the coins have been meticulously maintained.  
**RW :** **Nummery** (pertaining to coins); **Nummular** (coin-shaped)

### NUMSKULL (n)

**Cue :** NUMSKULL → *numb* – ‘weakened’ + *skull*  
**Mean :** a stupid person  
**Ex :** What a numskull! Can he do anything right?  
**Syn :** Jackass; Nitwit; Simpleton

### NUPTIAL (adj)

**Cue :** *nubere* – ‘to marry’  
**Mean :** (1) of or relating to marriage or the wedding ceremony  
**Ex :** The nuptials were performed in a hurry as the groom’s party was getting late for the return flight.  
**Syn :** Conjugal; Connubial; Marital  
**RW :** *Nuptial knot; Nubile*

### NURTURE (n)

**Cue :** From *nurse* or *nourish*  
**Mean :** the act of bringing up, raising, or promoting the development  
**Ex :** They nurtured their fledgling business with utmost care and devotion.  
**Syn :** Conjugal; Connubial; Marital

### OBCORDATE (adj)

**Cue :** OBCORDATE → *ob* – ‘to’ + *cord* + *ate* – ‘heart shaped’  
**Mean :** heart-shaped, with the point of attachment at the narrow end  
**Ex :** the tree has obcordate leaves.  
**RW :** *Cardiac; Cordial*

### OBDURATE (adj)

**Cue :** OBDURATE → *dur* – ‘hard’  
**Mean :** hardened against feeling, hardhearted  
**Ex :** An obdurate miser.  
**Syn :** Adamant; Bullhead; Callous; Hang tough; Hard-boiled; Obstinate; Stubborn  
**Ant :** Amenable; Compliant; Flexible  
**RW :** *Duress; Obdurately*

### OBFUSCATE (vt)

**Cue :** OBFUSCATE → *ob* – ‘to’ + *fuscare* – ‘darken’  
**Mean :** to make so confused or opaque as to be difficult to perceive or understand, to cloud over  
**Ex :** A great effort was made to obfuscate the truth.  
**Syn :** Adumbrate; Becloud; Befog; Blur; Conceal; Darken; Eclipse; Muddle; Perplex  
**Ant :** Clarify; Display; Reveal; Uncover; Unfog  
**RW :** *Confuse*

### OBITER DICTUM

**Cue :** saying by the way  
**Mean :** (1) an opinion voiced by a judge that has only incidental bearing on the case in question and is therefore not binding  
 (2) an incidental remark or observation; a passing comment  
**Ex :** The remark that the convicted was sorry for his misdeeds was just an obiter dictum and therefore not fit for consideration.

Syn : Remark  
RW : **Dictation; Diction; Dictum**

### OBITUARY (n)

Cue : **obitus** – 'death'  
Mean : a published notice of a death, sometimes with a brief biography of the deceased  
Ex : It was only when I read his obituary in the newspaper that I came to know about our former principal's death.  
Syn : Eulogy; Necrology

### OBJURGATE (vt)

Cue : **OBJURGATE** → **ob** + **jugare** – 'to scold'  
Mean : to scold or rebuke sharply  
Ex : She objurgated him for his insensitive remarks.  
Syn : Berate; Chasten

### OBLITERATE (vt)

Cue : **OBLITERATE** → From **litter** – 'letter' – 'to erase/efface/blot out'  
Mean : (1) to do away with completely so as to leave no trace  
(2) to wipe out, rub off, or erase (writing or other markings)  
Ex : The burn scars were obliterated after the plastic surgery  
Syn : Annihilate; Annul; Black out; Blot out; Call off; Destroy  
RW : **Oblivion**

### OBLOQUY (n)

Cue : **OBLOQUY** → **ob** – 'towards' + **loqui** – 'to speak'  
Mean : (1) abusively detractive language or utterance  
(2) the condition of disgrace suffered as a result of abuse or vilification; ill repute  
Ex : Don't indulge in obloquy; come up with your specific complaint.  
Syn : Aspersion; Calumny; Curse; Slander  
Ant : Credit; Praise

### OBNOXIOUS (adj)

Cue : **OBNOXIOUS** → **ob** – 'towards' + **noxa** – 'harm'  
Mean : (1) very annoying or objectionable; offensive or odious  
(2) deserving of or liable to censure  
Ex : "I know no method to secure the repeal of bad or obnoxious laws so effective as their stringent execution" (Ulysses S. Grant).  
Syn : Abhorrent; Abominable; Annoying; Despicable; Objectionable

### OBSCURE (adj)

Cue : **OBSCURE** → **ob** – 'towards' + **scure** – 'to cover, conceal, hide, darken'  
Mean : (1) deficient in light; dark  
(2) far from centers of human population  
(3) out of sight; hidden. (An obscure village)  
(4) not readily noticed or seen; inconspicuous (an obscure retreat)  
(5) of undistinguished or humble reputation (an obscure family)  
(6) not clearly understood or expressed; ambiguous or vague

*Ex* : He likes to remain obscure and hard to get.  
*Syn* : Abstract; Abstruse; Ambiguous; Blurred; Complex; Complicated  
*Ant* : Clear; Comprehensible; Distinct; Lucid

### OBSECRATE (v)

*Cue* : **OBSECRATE** → *ob* – ‘towards’ + *sacrare* – ‘to declare as sacred’  
*Mean* : to beg for something or ask on religious grounds  
*Ex* : The beggars indulge in obsecration to get more alms in the name of God.  
*Syn* : Beseech; Supplicate or Implore

### OBSEQUIIOUS (adj)

*Cue* : **OBSEQUIOUS** → *ob* – ‘towards’ + *sequent* – ‘follow’  
*Mean* : (1) full of or exhibiting servile compliance  
 (2) attempting to win favor from influential people by flattery  
*Ex* : The obsequious shop assistants don’t let go off a prospective customer easily.  
*Syn* : Boot-licking; Fawning  
*RW* : **Consequence; Sequence**

### OBSTREPEROUS (adj)

*Cue* : **OBSTREPEROUS** → *ob* – ‘towards’ + *strepere* – ‘to make a loud noise’  
*Mean* : (1) noisily and stubbornly defiant  
 (2) aggressively boisterous  
*Ex* : The boys kept up an obstreperous clamor  
*Syn* : Boisterous; Clamorous; Rambunctious; Raucous

### OBTRUDE (vt)

*Cue* : **OBTRUDE** → *ob* + *trud* – ‘to thrust’  
*Mean* : (1) to impose (oneself or one’s ideas) on others with undue insistence or without invitation  
 (2) to thrust out; push forward  
*Ex* : The poachers tried to obtrude themselves in the Panchayat of the tribals, but did not succeed.  
*Syn* : Interrupt; Intrude; Meddle  
*RW* : **Extrude; Intruder; Protrude**

### OBTUSE (adj)

*Cue* : From *obtund* – ‘blunt’  
*Mean* : (1) lacking quickness of perception or intellect (an obtuse remark)  
 (2) not distinctly felt (an obtuse pain)  
 (3) having an obtuse angle (an obtuse triangle)  
*Ex* : The littérateur just ignored the obtuse remarks of the detractor.  
*Syn* : Bird-brained; Blunt; Doltish; Dumb; Edentate  
*Ant* : Bright; Clever; Honed; Intelligent; Sharp

### OBVIATE (vt)

*Cue* : From *obviare* – *ob* – ‘to prevent’ + *via* – way  
*Mean* : to anticipate and dispose off effectively; render unnecessary  
*Ex* : While swimming, wearing a lifejacket obviates my fear of drowning.  
*Syn* : Hinder; Prevent; Restrain  
*Ant* : Allow; Invite; Permit; Seek

### OCCLUDE (v)

- Cue :** **O C C L U D E** → **claud/clued** – ‘to close/shut’  
**Mean :** to cause to become closed, obstruct; to prevent the passage of  
**Ex :** The occluded artery seriously hampered the smooth flow of blood.  
**Syn :** Block; Choke; Clog; Curb; Impede  
**Ant :** Include; Release; Unblock; Unclog  
**RW :** **Conclude; Include; Seclude**

### ODIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** From **odium** – ‘hatred’  
**Mean :** arousing or meriting strong dislike, aversion, or intense displeasure  
**Ex :** The odious remarks were full of contempt.  
**Syn :** Abhorrent; Abominable; Detestable  
**Ant :** Agreeable; Delightful; Pleasant

### ODORIFEROUS (adj)

- Cue :** **O D O R I F E R O U S** → **odor** – ‘smell’ + **ferous** – ‘bearing’  
**Mean :** having or giving off an odor, especially a fragrant one  
**Ex :** The odoriferous morning confirmed the advent of an early spring.  
**Syn :** Aromatic; Fragrant; Perfumed; Redolent

### ODYSSEY (n)

- Cue :** After Homer’s epic poem of **Odysseus’s** long and arduous journey from troy  
**Mean :** an extended adventurous voyage or trip in the face of hardships. An intellectual or spiritual quest  
**Ex :** The space odyssey of Kalpana Chawla resulted into her death.  
**Syn :** Journey

### OFFAL (n)

- Cue :** **O F F A L** → **off** – ‘to a side’ + **fall**  
**Mean :** waste parts, especially of a butchered animal. refuse; rubbish  
**Ex :** After slaying the goat, the butcher fed the offal to the dogs.  
**Syn :** Crap; Debris; Dregs

### OLFACTORY (adj)

- Cue :** **ol** – ‘smell’ + **facare** – ‘make’  
**Mean :** of, relating to, or contributing to the sense of smell  
**Ex :** His olfactory nerves are very strong; he can smell food from afar.

### OLIGARCHY (n)

- Cue :** **O L I G A R C H Y** → **ligo** – ‘small, scant, few’ + **archy** – ‘government’  
**Mean :** government by a few, especially by a small faction of persons or families  
**Ex :** There are very few countries in this world today under an oligarchic rule.  
**RW :** **Oligarch; Oligopoly**

### OMBUDSMAN (n)

- Cue :** **OMBUDSMAN** → **ombud** – ‘an official or representative’ (acting on both sides – ‘ambi’)
- Mean :** a man who investigates complaints and mediates fair settlements, especially between aggrieved parties such as consumers or students and an institution or organization
- Ex :** (1) My mother always acts as an ombudsman between me and my father.  
(2) The RBI guidelines provide for referring specific complaints from clients against a Bank's action, to the ombudsman for final settlement.
- Syn :** Judge

### OMINOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **OMINOUS** → **omni** – ‘omen’
- Mean :** menacing; threatening or being an omen, especially an evil one
- Ex :** The farmer looked wistfully at the ominous black clouds that threatened a deluge.
- Syn :** Apocalyptic; Augural; Baleful; Direful

### OMNIPOTENT (adj)

- Cue :** **OMNIPOTENT** → **omni** – ‘all’ + **potent** – ‘powerful’
- Mean :** having unlimited or universal power, authority, or force; all-powerful
- Ex :** God is omnipotent.
- Syn :** Almighty
- RW :** **Omnificent; Omnipresent; Omniscient; Omnivorous; Omnibus**

### ONEROUS (adj)

- Cue :** **ONEROUS** → **oner** – ‘burden’
- Mean :** troublesome or oppressive, burdensome
- Ex :** Preparing income tax returns is an onerous task.
- Syn :** Arduous; Backbreaking; Burdensome; Crushing; Cumbersome
- Ant :** Easy; Effortless; Painless; Simple
- RW :** **Exonerate; Onus**

### ONSLAUGHT (n)

- Cue :** From **slagen** – ‘to strike’
- Mean :** a violent attack; an overwhelming outpouring
- Ex :** The onslaught by the enemy began at dawn.
- Syn :** Attack; Barrage; Onrush; Onset
- RW :** **Slaughter**

### OPALESCENT (adj)

- Cue :** **OPALESCENT** – **escent** – ‘giving off or reflecting light’
- Mean :** exhibiting a milky radiance like that of an opal
- Ex :** The clouds had a milky opalescent luster.
- Syn :** Iridescent; Nacreous; Pearlescent; Pearly
- RW :** **Opulent**

### OPPROBRIUM (n)

- Cue :** **ob** – ‘against’ + **probum** – ‘reproach’
- Mean :** disgrace arising from exceedingly shameful conduct
- Ex :** He was quite opprobrious in his speech against the educational system.
- Syn :** Discredit; Disesteem; Dishonor; Disrepute; Humiliation; Ignominy; Infamy
- Ant :** Esteem; Honour; Regard; Respect

### OPPUGNANT (adj)

- Cue :** **OPPUGNANT** → **oppugn** – ‘oppose with argument’  
**Mean :** opposing, hostile  
**Ex :** The oppugnant forces of the neighbouring country forced India to declare war against them.  
**Syn :** Ornery; Pugnacious; Rancorous; Sour; Spiteful; Unfriendly; Unpropitious  
**Ant :** Favourable; Friendly; Helpful  
**RW :** **Impugn; Pugilism; Pugnacious**

### OPUS (n)

- Cue :** **ops** – ‘to work’  
**Mean :** a creative work, especially a musical composition numbered to designate the order of a composer's works  
**Ex :** The opus consisted of four parts.  
**Syn :** Composition; Creation; Music  
**RW :** **Cooperate; Inoperable; Magnum opus; Opera**

### ORACLE (n)

- Cue :** From **orare** – ‘to plead/speak’  
**Mean :** (1) a shrine consecrated to the worship and consultation of a prophetic deity, as that of Apollo at Delphi  
 (2) a person, such as a priestess, through whom a deity is held to respond when consulted  
 (3) an authoritative or wise statement or prediction  
 (4) a command or revelation from God  
**Ex :** The scriptures are called "living oracles" because of their visionary script.  
**Syn :** Apocalypse; Augury; Canon; Commandment; Revelation

### ORDINANCE (n)

- Cue :** From **ordain**  
**Mean :** an authoritative command or order. A custom or practice established by long usage  
**Ex :** Because of the urgency of the matter, the government had to issue an ordinance.  
**Syn :** Canon; Decree; Dictum; Direction; Edict; Enactment; Mandate; Precept; Prescript; Regulation

### ORIENT (n)

- Cue :** **oriri**, to arise, or to set in motion  
**Mean :** (1) the countries of Asia, especially of eastern Asia  
 (2) the luster characteristic of a pearl of high quality  
 (3) to make familiar with or adjusted to facts, principles, or a situation  
 (4) to become adjusted or aligned  
**Ex :** (i) The oriental civilizations had much to teach the West.  
 (ii) The new students of our college were called in for an orientation session.  
**Syn :** Acclimatize; Adapt; Adjust; Align; Consociate; Coordinate  
**Ant :** Confuse; Disorient; Occident

### ORNATE (adj)

- Mean :** (1) elaborately, heavily, and often excessively ornamented  
 (2) flashy, showy, or florid in style or manner  
**Ex :** An ornate speech is also sometimes referred to as a ‘flowery speech’.  
**Syn :** Embellished; Flamboyant; Flashy; Ornamented; Rococo; Showy; Snazzy  
**Ant :** Austere; Plain; Stark; Unadorned  
**RW :** **Ornament**



### OSSEOUS (adj)

- Cue :** O S S E O U S → From **os, oss** – ‘bone’  
**Mean :** composed of, containing, or resembling bone, bony  
**Ex :** The outer shell of the turtle is osseous.  
**RW :** **Ossiferous** (containing fossilized bones); **Ossification**

### OSTENTATION (n)

- Cue :** From **os + tendere** – ‘to stretch/show off’  
**Mean :** (1) pretentious display meant to impress others; boastful showiness  
 (2) lack of elegance as a consequence of being pompous and puffed up with vanity  
**Ex :** The stage had been set up with much ostentation and had ended up looking gauche.  
**Syn :** Flamboyance; Flash; Flaunting; Magnificence; Pompous; Pretentious  
**Ant :** Modesty; Unpretentiousness

### OSTRACIZE (v)

- Cue :** To exile by votes written on tiles or bones – ‘**osteo**’  
**Mean :** to exclude from a group, to banish by ostracism  
**Ex :** Ever since I spoke up against the manager, my colleagues have ostracized me.  
**Syn :** Ban; Banish; Blackball; Boycott; Expel; Shun  
**Ant :** Accept; Adopt; Embrace; Invite; Welcome

### OVERWEENING (adj)

- Cue :** O V E R W E E N I N G → **OVER** – ‘excess’ + **WEEN** – ‘imagine’  
**Mean :** excessively arrogant or proud  
**Ex :** Alexander had an overweening ambition to rule the whole world.  
**Syn :** Cocksure; Conceited; Confident; Egotistical  
**Ant :** Humble; Meek; Modest; Uncertain

### OVIPAROUS (adj)

- Cue :** O V I P A R O U S → **OVI** – ‘egg or ovum’ + **PAROUS** – ‘bringing forth’  
**Mean :** producing eggs that hatch outside the body  
**Ex :** Hen is an oviparous bird.  
**Syn :** Ovoviparous  
**Ant :** Viviparous

### OXYTONE (adj)

- Cue :** O X Y T O N E → **oxus** – ‘sharp’ + **tone** – ‘sound’  
**Mean :** relating to or being a word that has a heavy stress of accent on its last syllable  
**Syn :** Shrill toned  
**RW :** **Oxymoron** (expression using apparently contradictory terms)