

## LINKING UP THE WORDS (VOCAB)

'T'

### **TABERNACLE (n)**

**Cue :** **T A B E R N A C L E** → **taberna** – 'hut'

**Mean :** (1) any canopied place of worship (or) a temporary dwelling  
(2) a case or box on a church altar containing the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist

**Ex :** In the Roman Catholic Church, the consecrated bread and wine are kept in a tabernacle.

**Mean :** (3) the ancient Jewish portable shrine, the Jewish temple

**Ex :** The Israelites carried the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle through the desert.

**RW :** **Tavern**

### **TABLEAU (tab-loh)**

**Cue :** **Tablet** – 'variant of table' – a picture on a table?

**Mean :** (1) a representation of a scene; a vivid or graphic representation

**Ex :** (i) The museum has a realistic tableau 'Dinosaurs in the Jurassic Park'.  
(ii) The movie was a tableau of a soldier's life.

**Mean :** (2) a pause on stage when everyone stands like a statue

**Ex :** The curtain rose to reveal a dramatic tableau which suddenly came to life.

**RW :** **Tableau vivant** (a representation of a scene, picture, etc. by a person or group in costume, posing silently without moving); **Tableaux/Tableaus** (plural)

### **TACIT (adj)**

**Cue :** **tacit** – 'to be silent'

**Mean :** understood or assumed without being directly expressed

**Ex :** The management has given its tacit approval to the plan.

**Syn :** Incommunicable; Reserved; Reticent; Tightlipped

**Ant :** Garrulous; Talkative; Voluble

**RW :** **Taciturn**

### **TACTILE (adj)**

**Cue :** **tact/tang** – 'touch'

**Mean :** pertaining to the sense of touch

**Ex :** (i) Blind people use their tactile sense to read Braille.  
(ii) His paintings have a tactile quality. When you touch them, it seems as if you are touching the soft skin of a child.

**Syn :** Haptic; Palpable; Tactual; Tangible

**RW :** **Contact; Contagious; Contiguous; Contingent; Intact; Intangible; Tangent; Tangible**

### **TALISMAN (n)**

**Cue :** 'good luck charm'

**Mean :** (1) charm to bring good luck and avert misfortune

**Ex :** For his final match at the National level, he carried Tendulkar's autograph, which he regarded as a talisman.

**Mean :** (2) thing capable of working wonders

**Ex :** The British Empire ultimately yielded to Gandhiji's talismanic weapon of non-violence.

**Syn :** Amulet; Charm; Fetish; Periapt

### TANGENTIAL (adj)

Cue : **TANGENTIAL** → *tang* – ‘touch’

Mean : (1) (a) merely touching or slightly connected. (b) only superficially relevant; divergent

Ex : The arguments put forth against the project were rather tangential; they were not even linked with the basic idea.

Mean : (2) **go off (or fly) on a tangent**: to break off suddenly from a line of action or train of thought and pursue another course

Ex : We were discussing politics when she flew off at a tangent and started talking about yesterday's party.

RW : **Tangent; Tangible**

### TANTALIZE/TANTALISE (v)

Cue : **'Tantalus'**, according to **Greek Mythology**, was a king, son of Zeus, doomed in the lower world to stand in water that always recedes when he tries to drink it and under branches of fruit that always remain just out of reach

Mean : to tease or torment by the sight, smell, promise, etc, of something desirable but unobtainable

Ex : The smell of the meat being fried in the kitchen tantalized the dog, making it to wander near the kitchen.

Syn : Bait; Entice; Make one's mouth water

### TAXIDERMY (n)

Cue : **TAXIDERMY** → *taxi* – ‘arrangement’ + *derm* – ‘skin’ i.e. arrangement of skin of dead animals

Mean : stuffing and mounting the skins of dead animals for exhibition in a lifelike state

Ex : Taxidermy enables us to see lifelike animals in museums.

RW : **Pachyderm; Epidermis; Taxonomy**

### TEETER (v)

Cue : **TEETER** → **Teeter** could be rhymed with **'totter'** i.e. to shake

Mean : (1) to walk or move unsteadily or unsurely; totter

Ex : Those little girls were teetering in their mothers' shoes.

Mean : (2) to hesitate or be indecisive

Ex : The management teeters between giving in to labour union demands and calling for a new set of labour.

Syn : Falter; Lurch; Stagger; Stumble; Vacillate; Wobble

Ant : Stabilize; Steady

RW : **Teeterboard** (seesaw); **Teeter-totter** (seesaw)

### TELEOLOGY (n)

Cue : **TELEOLOGY** → *teleo* – ‘end, last’ + *logy* – ‘study’ i.e. study of final causes

Mean : (1) the study of design or purpose in natural phenomena

(2) the fact or quality of being directed toward a definite end or of having an ultimate purpose, esp. as attributed to natural processes

Ex : Teleology is a belief that natural phenomena are determined not only by mechanical causes but by an overall design or purpose in nature.

### TEMPERATE (adj)

Cue : **TEMPERATE** → *temper* – ‘to mix, proportion, moderate properly’

Mean : (1) moderate, self-restrained

Ex : (i) He practices self-control and keeps away from alcohol and such temperate habits have kept him healthy.

(ii) Be less violent and more temperate in your language.  
**Mean :** (2) characterized by moderate temperatures, weather, or climate; neither hot nor cold  
**Ex :** The region around the Mediterranean sea is a temperate zone.  
**Syn :** (1) Abstemious; Abstemious  
**:** (2) Balmy; Warm  
**Ant :** Drunk; Inebriated; Uncontrolled  
**RW :** **Temperament; Temperance**

### TEMPO (n)

**Cue :** **TEMPO** → **tempo** – 'time'  
**Mean :** (1) the speed or rhythm at which music is performed  
**Ex :** Their dance steps are not matching the tempo of this melody.  
**Mean :** (2) the rate or motion of activity  
**Ex :** One from the rural background would find the tempo of city life too fast.  
**Syn :** Pace; Speed; Velocity  
**RW :** **Contemporary; Extemporaneously; Pro Tem** (temporary); **Temporal; Temporary; Temporize**

### TENABLE (adj)

**Cue :** **TENABLE** → **ten/tin/tain** – 'hold'  
**Mean :** (of an opinion or position) able to be defended successfully or held for a particular period of time  
**Ex :** (i) The belief that malaria is caused by bad air is not tenable in the light of the recent discoveries.  
(ii) The position of President of this club is usually tenable for a year.  
**Syn :** Defensible; Sustainable  
**RW :** **Abstain; Contain; Content; Continent; Detain; Detention; Obsolete; Pertain; Pertinacious** (stubbornly persistent); **Retain; Retentive; Tenacious; Tenant; Tenement; Tenure**

### TENACIOUS (adj)

**Cue :** **TENACIOUS** → **ten/tin/tain** – 'hold'  
**Mean :** (1) holding or tending to hold persistently to something, such as a point of view  
**Ex :** There has been tenacious local opposition against the organization of the Miss World contest in the city.  
**Mean :** (2) holding together firmly, cohesive  
**Ex :** The lion seized its prey in a tenacious grip.  
**Mean :** (3) of memory, retentive  
**Ex :** This child is a genius; he never forgets anything as he has a tenacious memory.  
**Syn :** Dogged; Dour; Pertinacious; Unyielding  
**Ant :** Yielding  
**RW :** **Tenacity**

### TENSILE (adj)

**Cue :** **TENSILE** → **tens/tend/tent** – 'stretch/strain'  
**Mean :** capable of being stretched and maintaining tension  
**Ex :** Escalators and lifts rely on the high tensile strength of the wires.  
**Syn :** Ductile; Malleable; Pliable; Pliant; Tactile  
**RW :** **Contend; Contentious; Distend** (to swell out); **Extend; Extent; Intend; Ostensible** (apparent); **Pretend; Pretense; Superintend; Tendency; Tender; Tension**

### TENUOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **T E N U O U S** → Peg it with '*thin*'
- Mean :** (1) (of something non-physical) having little meaning or strength  
(2) very thin
- Ex :** The connection between the novel 'Devdas' and the movie is quite tenuous and it cannot be said that the movie is based on the novel.
- Syn :** Flimsy
- Ant :** Important; Substantial; Thick
- RW :** **Attenuate; Extenuate**

### TERGIVERSATION (n)

- Cue :** **T E R G I V E R S A T I O N** → *vers*,/ '*vert* – '*turn*'. An evasive person: trying to avoid giving a direct answer to a straight question
- Mean :** (1) to change opinion or attitude repeatedly: equivocation  
(2) desertion of a cause, position, party or faith
- Ex :** The tergiversation of his speech left his listeners confused about where he really stood on the issue.

### TERMAGANT (n and adj)

- Cue :** **Termagan** was an imaginary Muslim deity represented in medieval morality plays as extremely violent and turbulent person, in long, flowing eastern robes, a dress that led to his acceptance as a woman and that is why the name came to be applied to a shrewish, quarrelsome, violently abusive and tyrannizing woman
- Mean :** a scolding, nagging, bad-tempered woman; a shrew
- Ex :** In this movie, she plays the role of a termagant old woman who picks up a fight at the smallest pretext, though the role is most unlike her kind and gentle nature in real life.
- Syn :** **Virago** (a noisy or scolding or domineering woman)

### TERRESTRIAL (adj)

- Cue :** **terra** – 'earth/land'
- Mean :** (1) of the earth or land
- Ex :** Aquatic regions have been explored lesser than the terrestrial ones.
- Mean :** (2) worldly, earthly, mundane
- Ex :** If they are concerned more with terrestrial than with spiritual matters, Church leaders would bring religion into disrepute.
- Syn :** Tellurian; Telluric; Temporal; Terrene
- Ant :** Cosmic; Heavenly; Otherworldly
- RW :** **Extraterrestrial** (originating outside Earth); **Subterranean** (being or operating under the surface of the earth); **Terra incognito** (an unknown or unexplored land or region); **Terrain** (a piece of land, especially its natural features); **Terrarium** (an enclosure in which to keep small land animals); **Territory**

### TESTAMENT (n)

- Cue :** **T E S T A M E N T** → *test* – 'witness/see'
- Mean :** a written statement of beliefs or convictions; tangible proof
- Ex :** (i) Nehru's writings are a testament of his love for India and its people.  
(ii) The spacious plan of the city is a testament to the foresight of its founder.
- Syn :** Covenant; Evidence; Testimonial
- RW :** **Attest** (to certify); **Detest** (to dislike intensely); **Intestate** (having made no will); **Protestation** (declaration of objection); **Testator** (a person who has made a will, esp. one who has died leaving a valid will); **Testatrix** (feminine gender of the testator); **Testify** (give testimony in a court of law); **Testimony** (evidence)

### THEANTHROPISM (n)

- Cue :** **T H E A N T H R O P I S M** → *the* – ‘God’ + *anthro* – an or human being’ + *ism* – ‘signifies an activity, ideology or belief’
- Mean :** (1) the representation of objects (especially a god) as having human form or traits  
(2) (theology) the doctrine that Jesus was a union of the human and the divine
- Ex :** Most humans have strong belief in theanthropism
- RW :** ***Apotheosis*** (the act of raising a person to the status of a god; deification); ***Atheism***; ***Monotheism***; ***Polytheism***; ***Theology***; ***Theophilus*** (loved by the Gods); ***Theosophy*** (Religious philosophy or speculation about the nature of the soul based on mystical insight into the nature of God); ***Theocracy***

### THERAPEUTIC (adj)

- Cue :** **T H E R A P E U T I C** → *therap* – ‘heal, cure; treatment’ + *ic* – ‘act’
- Mean :** the treatment or curing of physical and mental disorders, diseases
- Ex :** (i) After his stroke, he needed speech therapy to learn to talk.  
(ii) Talking to a sympathetic friend can be therapeutic if you’re depressed.
- Syn :** Curative; Healing; Remedial
- RW :** ***Hypnotherapy*** (the treatment of a disease by hypnotism); ***Therapist***.

### THERMODYNAMICS (n)

- Cue :** **T H E R M O D Y N A M I C S** → *therm* – ‘heat’ + *dynamics* – ‘force producing motion’
- Mean :** the science of the relations between heat and other forms of energy
- Ex :** The principles of thermodynamics are being used to design more efficient engines.
- RW :** ***Hypothermia*** (abnormally low body temperature); ***Thermal***; ***Thermometer***; ***Thermonuclear***; ***Thermostat*** (a device that automatically controls temperature)

### THESPIAN (n)

- Cue :** Characteristic of the great 6<sup>th</sup> century Greek poet Thespis
- Mean :** Connected with acting and theater. Also, a famous actor or actress with a lot of experience
- Ex :** Amitabh Bachchan would always be one of the greatest thespians of the Indian cinema.

### THRENODY (threnudee) (n)

- Cue :** **T H R E N O D Y** → *threnos* – ‘sorrow’ + *ode* – ‘song’
- Mean :** a song or hymn of mourning composed or performed as a memorial to a dead person; funeral song
- Ex :** Some vocal artists specialize in threnodies.
- Syn :** Dirge; Elegy; Keen - a funeral lament sung with loud wailing; Lament; Requiem

### THROTTLE (n/v)

- Cue :** From ***throat***
- Mean :** (1) to choke a person by squeezing the throat; to strangle
- Ex :** The attacker tried to throttle her.
- Mean :** (2) to suppress
- Ex :** The teacher’s harsh criticism has throttled the pupils’ creativity.

### TIMOROUS (adj)

- Cue :** Peg with ‘***timid***’
- Mean :** full of or subject to fear, timid
- Ex :** The child’s timorous shouts at the fierce dog had no effect.
- Syn :** Apprehensive; Browbeaten; Cowed; Cowering; Daunted; Frightened; Hesitant; Intimidated; Nervous; Pusillanimous; Spineless; Spiritless; Tremulous; Unnerved
- Ant :** Bold; Confident; Fearless
- RW :** ***Intimidate*** (fill with fear)

### TITULAR (adj)

- Cue :** **TITULAR** → *Titular* is formed from 'title'  
**Mean :** in name only, without real power  
**Ex :** The president is the titular head of the nation but the real power lies with the prime minister.  
**Syn :** Eponymous; Nominal

### TOPOGRAPHY (n)

- Cue :** **TOPOGRAPHY** → lies in its roots: **topos** – 'place' + **graphy** – 'to write, record or describe' → "description of the place"  
**Mean :** physical features of a region  
**Ex :** (i) I have a fair idea of the topography of a region.  
(ii) A topographic/topographical map shows hills, rivers and built-up areas.  
**RW :** **Topology; Toponym** (name derived from name of a place)

### TORMENT (v/n)

- Cue :** **TORMENT** → **tor/tort** – 'twisting to cause suffering'  
**Mean :** (1) to inflict or cause physical or mental pain, anguish  
**Ex :** The family said they had endured years of torment and abuse at the hands of the neighbours.  
**Mean :** (2) to tease, annoy  
**Ex :** The dog finally bit its tormentor.  
**Syn :** Agonize; Distress  
**RW :** **Distort; Extort; Tortuous; Torture**

### TORTUOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **TORTUOUS** → lies : **tort** – 'twist'  
**Mean :** (1) winding or twisting with many bends  
**Ex :** It's a tortuous road through the hills.  
**Mean :** (2) not straightforward; devious; tricky  
**Ex :** The minister's tortuous arguments did nothing to convince us.  
**Syn :** (1) Askew; Serpentine; Sinuous; Snaky; Twisting; Winding  
**Ant :** Direct; Straight; Unbent  
**Syn :** (2) Debauched; Deceitful; Devious; Perverse; Reprobate; Tricky  
**Ant :** Good; Virtuous; Pure  
**RW :** **Contort** (distort violently); **Distort; Extort; Retort** (to turn (an insult, epithet, deed, etc. back upon the person from whom it came); **Torsion** (Twisting, esp. of one end of body while the other end is held fixed); **Torture; Torturous**

### TOXICOLOGY (n)

- Cue :** **TOXICOLOGY** → **tox/toxic** – 'poison' + **logy** – 'study/science'  
**Mean :** the science dealing with poisons and their effects and with antidotes for poisons  
**Ex :** Toxicology is the scientific study of poisons.  
**RW :** **Antitoxin; Intoxicate** (to cause a loss of control; make drunk), **Toxalbumin** (a poisonous protein found in certain plants and cultures of bacteria and in snake venoms); **Toxemia/Toxaemia** (a condition in which poisonous substances are spread throughout the body by the bloodstream); **Toxic; Toxicogenic** (producing toxic substances); **Toxicosis** (any diseased condition caused by poisoning); **Toxin; Toxoid** (a toxin that has been treated, as with chemicals or heat, so as to eliminate the toxic qualities while retaining the antigenic properties)

### TRACTABLE (adj)

- Cue :** **T R A C T A B L E** → **tract** – ‘draw, pull’ + **able**
- Mean :** (1) easily managed, taught or controlled; docile; compliant  
(2) easily worked; malleable
- Ex :** (i) Young minds are often tractable  
(ii) The river water dispute turned out to be rather less tractable than I had expected.
- Syn :** Amenable; Docile; Pliant; Submissive
- Ant :** Forward; Intractable; Obstinate
- RW :** **Abstract** (a thought drawn away from material objects; not concrete); **Attract**; **Protract** ; **Subtract**; **Subtract** (the number to be drawn away from another); **Traction** (the act of drawing or pulling something over a surface); **Tractor**

### TRADUCE (v)

- Cue :** **T R A D U C E** → **tra** – ‘trans’ + **duce** – ‘lead’
- Mean :** to cause humiliation or disgrace to by making malicious and false statements
- Ex :** The article in the paper traduced her reputation.
- Syn :** Asperse; Calumniate; Denigrate; Malign; Slander; Vilify
- RW :** **Duct**; **Seduce**; **Transcend**; **Transparent**

### TRANQUILLITY (n)

- Mean :** calmness, peace
- Ex :** I like my native village most of all because of its immense tranquillity and unhurriedness, far removed from the hectic and troubled pace of life in the city.
- Syn :** Placidity; Quiet; Repose; Serenity
- Ant :** Chaos; Turbulence
- RW :** **Tranquillize**; **Tranquillizer** (to make clam or sleepy, especially by administering a drug)

### TRANSCEND (v)

- Cue :** **T R A N S C E N D** → **trans** – ‘beyond’ + **scend** – ‘to climb’
- Mean :** (1) to go beyond the range or limit of human experience, belief
- Ex :** The story of this film would transcend your belief.
- Mean :** (2) Excellent, Superior, Supreme
- Ex :** The transcendent genius of Newton revolutionized scientific thinking.
- Mean :** (3) to surpass or exceed; to rise above
- Ex :** The annual profit of the company this year transcends all the previous ones.
- Syn :** Excel; Rise above; Transform
- Ant :** Fail; Loose
- RW :** **Transcendence**; **Transcendental**; **Transcendentalism**; **Transcendently**; **Transcript**; **Transcription**; **Transgress**; **Transmute**; **Transpire**

### TRANSIENT (adj)

- Cue :** **T R A N S I E N T** → **trans** – ‘through’
- Mean :** (1) passing away with time; not permanent; temporary  
(2) temporary visitor, worker etc
- Ex :** The city has a large transient population of daily-wage workers who come to work in the city from the adjoining areas.
- Syn :** Ephemeral; Evanescent; Fleeting; Provisional; Transitory
- Ant :** Permanent
- RW :** **Transitory**

### TRANSLUCENT (adj)

- Cue :** **trans** – 'through' + **lucere** – 'to shine' i.e. to shine through  
**Mean :** allowing some light through so that objects can be seen through it but not very clearly; semitransparent  
**Ex :** Translucent glass panes are not see through; at the same time light comes through them.  
**RW :** **Lucid; Pellucid**

### TREACHERY (n)

- Cue :** **TREACHERY** → Rhyme **treach** with 'cheat'  
**Mean :** an act of betrayal or one of treason  
**Ex :** Pakistan's treachery against India in 1999 was the biggest lesson Indians could have learnt.  
**Syn :** Betrayal; Perfidy; Treason  
**Ant :** Faithfulness; Fidelity; Loyalty  
**RW :** **Treason** (the betrayal of your country)

### TREMULOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **TREMULOUS** → in the root: **trem/trep** – 'tremble'/'shake'  
**Mean :** (1) trembling, wavering, Shaking  
 (2) timid or fearful; timorous  
**Ex :** He is too tremulous to give a speech in the public.  
**Syn :** Quavering; Quivering; Twittering  
**Ant :** Confident; Steady  
**RW :** **Intrepid** (fearless); **Tremolant / Tremulant** (vibrating tone); **Tremor** (An involuntary trembling or vibration); **Trepidation** (tremulous or trembling movement)

### TRIFLE (n)

- Mean :** something of little value or importance; trivial thing, idea, etc.; paltry matter  
**Ex :** Why are you arguing over such a trifling matter?  
**Syn :** Frippery; Frivolity; Triviality; Trinket  
**RW :** **trivial**

### TRUCKLE (n/v)

- Mean :** to yield or submit obsequiously i.e. to be servile or submissive  
**Ex :** He was nearly shaking with fear and easily truckled under the pressure applied by the police, revealing all that he had seen the other night.  
**Syn :** Cringe; Fawn; Grovel; Toady

### TRUCULENT (adj)

- Mean :** defiant and aggressive  
**Ex :** The MP is known to be rather aggressive, but his truculence during the session was unusually severe.  
**Syn :** Belligerent; Hostile  
**Ant :** Docile

### TUMID (adj)

- Cue :** **Tumere** – 'swelling'  
**Mean :** (1) swollen; bulging  
 (2) inflated or pompous  
**Ex :** You must consult a doctor about the tumid outgrowth on your head.  
**Syn :** Bulging; Protruding  
**RW :** **Tumefaction; Tumefy; Tumescence; Tummy; Tumultuous**



### TURBID (adj)

- Cue :** **T U R B I D** → in the root: **turb** – ‘disturb’ or ‘to stir up’
- Mean :** (1) having sediment or foreign particles stirred up or suspended; muddy and cloudy (of liquids)
- Ex :** Turbid waters of the stream are home to many fish.
- Mean :** (2) thick, dense or dark, as clouds or smoke
- Ex :** The turbid smoke from the factories is polluting the air of this city.
- Mean :** (3) confused; disordered
- Ex :** That mentally sick man had turbid thoughts.
- Syn :** (1) Murky; Roiled  
(2) Addled; Confounded; Confused; Muddled; Perplexed
- Ant :** Clear
- RW :** **Disturb; Perturbation** (agitation); **Turbidity; Turbulent** (violently agitated)

### TURGID (adj)

- Cue :** Relate it with ‘Tumid’
- Mean :** (1) swollen; distended
- Ex :** The wound on his leg was red and turgid, making him unable to walk.
- Mean :** (2) overly pompous in style or language; bombastic
- Ex :** The book is overly turgid and hence not eminently readable.
- Syn :** (1) Bloated; Distended; Puffed; Tumescence; Tumid  
(2) Bombastic; Grandiloquent; Orotund; Tumid
- Ant :** Deflated; Flaccid
- RW :** **Turgescence; Turgidity**

### TURMOIL (n)

- Cue :** **T U R M O I L** → Relate **turm** with ‘turb’ i.e. disturb
- Mean :** (1) state of confusion, uncertainty  
(2) to agitate, trouble
- Ex :** The country is in a state of turmoil.
- Syn :** Agitation; Commotion; Tumult; Turbulence; Uproar
- Ant :** Calm; Harmony; Order; Peace

### TYRO (n)

- Mean :** a beginner, novice
- Ex :** Despite his being a tyro, he surprised his boss by giving a wonderful project report.
- Syn:** Amateur; Apprentice; Beginner; Fledgling; Neophyte
- Ant :** Expert

### UBIQUITOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **U B I Q U I T O U S** → **ubi** – ‘where’ + **qui** – ‘every’ i.e. turning up everywhere
- Mean :** existing or being everywhere at the same time
- Ex :** The Irish are not alone in finding their language under pressure from the ubiquitous spread of English.
- Syn :** Omnipresent; Universal
- Ant :** Rare; Scarce
- RW :** **Ubiquity** (the condition of being in a particular place)

### ULTRAMARINE (adj/n)

- Cue :** **ULTRAMARINE** → *ultra* – ‘beyond’, + *marine* – ‘of the sea’ i.e. ‘beyond the sea’
- Mean :** (1) a blue pigment orig. made by grinding lapis lazuli to a powder  
(2) a vivid or strong blue to purplish blue
- Ex :** Ultramarine is so called because the blue pigment from Asia came to Europe from ‘across the sea’.
- RW :** **Ultrasonic** (beyond the range of human hearing)

### UMBRAGE (n)

- Cue :** **UMBRAGE** → *umbra* – ‘shade, shadow’
- Mean :** the feeling of being overshadowed; as by standing in one's light or way; hence, suspicion of injury or wrong (*to take umbrage*)
- Ex :** The minister took umbrage to the article that had criticized him severely.
- Syn :** Grudge; Pique; Vexation
- RW :** **Adumbrate** (to outline); **Penumbra** (a partial shadow); **Umbrageous** (giving shade, feeling offended); **Umbrella**

### UNANIMOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **UNANIMOUS** → *uni* – ‘one’ + *animus* – ‘mind’ i.e. of one mind.
- Mean :** in complete agreement, united in opinion
- Ex :** (i) The decision was unanimous with no dissent.  
(ii) If we can't reach unanimity, we'll take a vote.
- Syn :** Concord; Consensus
- Ant :** Contested; Discord
- RW :** **Unify; Unilateral; Unit**

### UNCANNY (adj)

- Cue :** **UNCANNY** → *un* – ‘not’ + *canny* – ‘know how to’ associated with the supernatural
- Mean :** seemingly supernatural or mysterious; strange
- Ex :** (i) He has an uncanny sense of humor.  
(ii) His predictions turned out to be uncannily accurate.
- Syn :** Eldritch; Freakish; Unearthly; Weird
- Ant :** Earthly; Natural

### UNCONSCIONABLE (adj)

- Cue :** **UNCONSCIONABLE** → *un* – ‘not’ + *conscion* – ‘conscience’ + *able* → showing no regard for conscience
- Mean :** (1) not guided or restrained by conscience; unscrupulous
- Ex :** The unconscionable retailer does not hesitate to fleece whenever he can.
- Mean :** (2) unreasonable in degree or amount
- Ex :** The moneylender has been charging unconscionable rate of interest.
- Syn :** **Conscienceless**; Extortionate; Outrageous; Steep; Usurious
- Ant :** Decent; Good; Moral
- RW :** **Unassailable; Unassuming; Unbridled; Undaunted; Unearth; Unerring**

### UNCOUTH (adj)

- Cue :** **UNCOUTH** → *un* – ‘not’ + *couth* – ‘refined; polished; civilized’
- Mean :** not having good manners, awkward or impolite in speech and behavior
- Ex :** His uncouth mannerism has earned him notoriety at the university campus.
- Syn :** Awkward; Boorish; Clumsy; Discourteous; Uncultured
- Ant :** Agile; Couth; Graceful; Polished; Refined; Sophisticated

### UNCTUOUS (adj)

- Cue :** 'unct' is ointment or oil; it would form the peg for this word  
**Mean :** praise, interest, friendliness, etc., in a way that is false and unpleasant; too suave or oily in speech or manner  
**Ex :** Except for a few friends and relatives whose grief appeared genuine, rest of the people at the funeral were overflowing with unctuous sympathy for the young widow.  
**Syn :** Fulsome; Ingratiating; Obsequious; Oily; Oleaginous  
**RW :** **Uction**

### UNEQUIVOCAL (adj)

- Cue :** **UNEQUIVOCAL** → **un** – 'not' + **equivocal** – that can have 'more than one interpretation'  
**Mean :** completely clear, allowing no possibility of doubt  
**Ex :** All political parties have expressed their unequivocal support for the economic reforms.  
**Syn :** Evident; Explicit; Unambiguous  
**Ant :** Ambiguous

### UNFETTERED (v)

- Cue :** **UNFETTERED** → **un** – 'not' + **fetter** – 'anything that holds in check; restraint'  
**Mean :** free from restraint of any kind; liberate  
**Ex :** Being an unfettered man, he has the guts to oppose injustice and oppression anywhere.  
**Syn :** Emancipate; Liberate  
**Ant :** Fettered

### UNGAINLY (adj)

- Cue :** **UNGAINLY** → **un** – 'not' + **gainly** – 'shapely and graceful; comely'  
**Mean :** not graceful, awkward in movement; clumsy  
**Ex :** Please improve upon your awkward and ungainly gait or else you will never make a good dancer.  
**Syn :** Awkward; Lubberly; Lumpish; Uncouth; Unwieldy  
**Ant :** Graceful

### UNGUENT (n)

- Cue :** 'unct' is ointment or oil; it would form the peg for this word  
**Mean :** a healing or a soothing ointment for sores, burns or the like  
**Ex :** She applied an unguent to the wound.  
**Syn :** Balm; Cerate; Demulcent; Emollient; Liniment; Ointment; Salve  
**RW :** **Unguous** (oily/greasy)

### UNIMPEACHABLE (adj)

- Cue :** **UNIMPEACHABLE** → **un** – 'not' + **impeach** – 'to challenge or discredit'  
**Mean :** that cannot be doubted, questioned or discredited i.e. unquestionably honest, trustworthy  
**Ex :** Mother Teresa was a woman of unimpeachable integrity and character.  
**Syn :** Blameless; Exemplary; Impeccable; Irreproachable

### UNISON (n)

- Cue :** **UNISON** → **uni** – 'one' + **son** – 'sound' i.e. having one sound, 'harmonious agreement'  
**Mean :** (1) singing or playing all together at the same pitch  
**Ex :** Choirs sing in unison  
**Mean :** (2) uttering the same words, or producing the same sound, at the same time  
**Ex :** The rescuers can not hear us; let's shout in unison.  
**Mean :** (3) complete agreement; concord; harmony

*Ex* : All the oil companies increased their prices in unison.  
*Syn* : Accord; Consonance; Unanimous  
*Ant* : Disagreement; Discord; Disharmony; Dissension; Disunity  
*RW* : **Unanimous; Unicorn** (a mythical horse-like animal with a single horn growing from the center of its forehead); **Unicycle; Uniform; Unify; Unilateral; Universal; University**

### UNKEMPT (adj)

*Cue* : **UNKEMPT** → *un* – ‘not’ + **kempt / kembed** → ‘well-combed, neat’  
*Mean* : untidy; neglected  
*Ex* : (i) With his unwashed looks, unkempt hair and clothes half buttoned, it seemed as if he had just got out of bed.  
(ii) The overgrown grass in the garden looks very unkempt.  
*Syn* : Disheveled; Slovenly  
*Ant* : Kempt; Tidy  
*RW* : **Unmitigated; Unhinged**

### UNOBTRUSIVE (adj)

*Cue* : **UNOBTRUSIVE** → *un* – ‘not’ + **obtrusive** – ‘obtruding itself’ esp. calling attention to itself in a displeasing way  
*Mean* : not undesirably noticeable or blatant; not drawing attention  
*Ex* : He led a quiet, unobtrusive life of self-denial.  
*Syn* : Obscure; Unnoticeable  
*Ant* : Flaunting; Noticeable

### UNRAVEL (v)

*Cue* : **UNRAVEL** → *un* + **ravel** – ‘orig. to make complicated or tangled’  
*Mean* : to solve or work something out  
*Ex* : The psychiatrist unraveled the reasons for her strange behavior.  
*Syn* : Decipher; Explain; Resolve

### UNREQUITED (adj)

*Cue* : **UNREQUITED** → *un* – ‘not’ + **requite** – ‘to make return or repayment’  
*Mean* : of feelings, not returned or reciprocated  
*Ex* : (i) He had helped her on several occasions before, but his favors and love had always gone unrequited.  
(ii) His unrequited love for her didn’t last long.  
*Syn* : Unanswered; Unreciprocated

### UNRUFFLED adj

*Cue* : **UNRUFFLED** → *un* – ‘not’ + **ruffle** – ‘to disturb the smoothness of’  
*Mean* : not agitated; calm; regular and smooth  
*Ex* : Despite the fear of losing his job, he appeared quite unruffled.  
*Syn* : Placid; Serene; Tranquil; Unflustered; Unperturbed

### UNSAVOURY (adj)

*Cue* : **UNSAVOURY** → *un* – ‘not’ + **savoury** – ‘pleasing to the taste or smell; morally acceptable; respectable’  
*Mean* : distasteful or offensive  
*Ex* : (i) The smell of these stale vegetables is unsavoury.  
(ii) The minister is involved in an unsavoury scandal with a younger woman.

**UNSCATHED (adj)**

**Cue :** UNSCATHED → *un* – ‘not’ + *scathe* – ‘to hurt, injure’  
**Mean :** without suffering any injury  
**Ex :** Despite the head-on collision, he came out unscathed because he had been wearing the seatbelt.  
**Syn :** Unharmed; Unhurt  
**Ant :** Wounded

**UNSCRUPULOUS (adj)**

**Cue :** UNSCRUPULOUS → *un* – ‘not’ + *scrupulous* – ‘moral, honest’  
**Mean :** without moral principles; dishonest  
**Ex :** One should not earn money through unscrupulous means.  
**Syn :** Conscienceless; Ruthless; Unconscionable; Unethical  
**Ant :** Ethical; Good; Principled

**UNSOLICITED (adj)**

**Cue :** UNSOLICITED → *un* – ‘not’ + *solicit* – ‘to ask or seek earnestly or pleadingly’  
**Mean :** not asked for; given voluntarily  
**Ex :** Her unsolicited advice to the director of the play irritated him.  
**Syn :** Unsought  
**Ant :** Asked; Requested

**UNTENABLE (adj)**

**Cue :** UNTENABLE → *un* – ‘not’ + *ten* – ‘to hold, keep, stretch’  
**Mean :** (1) incapable of being maintained  
 (2) (of a position esp. in an argument) impossible to defend or show to be reasonable  
**Ex :** The troops had to withdraw from their untenable positions in enemy territory.  
**Syn :** Indefensible; Unreasonable; Unsupportable  
**Ant :** Supportable  
**RW :** *Tensile; Tentative*

**UNTOWARD (adj)**

**Cue :** UNTOWARD → *un* – ‘not’ + *toward*  
**Mean :** (1) inappropriate, improper  
**Ex :** Her untoward remarks at the conference table made her lose the job.  
**Mean :** (2) unfortunate; adverse, inauspicious  
**Ex :** The untoward incident proved portentous to her.

**UNWIELDY (adj)**

**Mean :** not easily handled; too large or cumbersome  
**Ex :** Of all the items, this piano is so unwieldy that it is just impossible to get it down the stairs.  
**Syn :** Cumbersome; Unmanageable  
**Ant :** Manageable

**UNWITTINGLY (adv)**

**Cue :** UNWITTINGLY → *un* – ‘not’ + *wit* – ‘to know’  
**Mean :** not knowing or intentional  
**Ex :** Unwittingly, he revealed details of the new project to the competitors.  
**Syn :** Accidental; Ignorant; Inadvertent; Involuntary; Nescient; Unaware; Unsuspecting  
**Ant :** Conscious; Deliberate; Intentional; Knowing; Realizing

## UNYIELDING

**Cue :** **UNYIELDING** → **un** – ‘not’ + **yield**  
**Mean :** not giving way; firm  
**Ex :** (i) The company was unyielding to the demands of the labour union.  
(ii) She prefers an unyielding mattress to a soft one.  
**Syn :** Recalcitrant; Resolute; Steadfast; Obdurate; Obstinate  
**Ant :** Irresolute; Surrendering; Yielding

## UPBRAID (v)

**Cue :** ‘**braid**’ → to twist/pull  
**Mean :** to forcefully criticize others for having done something wrong  
**Ex :** The teacher upbraided the student for being late.  
**Syn :** Censure; Chastise; Rebuke; Reprehend; Reprimand; Reprove; Vituperate  
**Ant :** Adulate; Commend; Extol; Praise

## UPSHOT (n)

**Cue :** **UPSHOT** → **up** + **shot** i.e. ‘the final shot’  
**Mean :** the outcome or final result  
**Ex :** The upshot of the discussions is that the company would launch its new product in the next month, instead of launching it now.  
**Syn :** Conclusion; Consequence; Corollary; End  
**Ant :** Cause; Origin; Source

## UPSURGE (n/v)

**Cue :** **UPSURGE** → **up** + **surge** – ‘to rise’ i.e. to surge up  
**Mean :** a sudden increase or rise  
**Ex :** There has been an upsurge of liquor consumption among the youth in our country.

## URBANE (adj)

**Cue :** **URBANE** → **urban** – ‘city’; i.e. one having the manners of townspeople  
**Mean :** sophisticated or refined  
**Ex :** The urbane rich are often ignorant of the ground realities facing the common folk.  
**Syn :** Courteous; Mannerly; Suave; Svelte  
**Ant :** Uncivilized; Uncouth; Unsophisticated  
**RW :** **Suburban** (contemptibly dull and ordinary); **Urbanite; Urbanity**

## USURP (v)

**Cue :** **USURP** → from **usu** (use) + ‘**rapare**’ (seize) i.e. to take into use by force  
**Mean :** to seize and hold another's place, authority, or possession by force and without legal authority  
**Ex :** (i) The Land Mafia is usurping the lands in our cities.  
(ii) The prince's brother planned to kill him and usurp his kingdom.  
**Syn :** Arrogate; Confiscate; Expropriate  
**Ant :** Give in; Relinquish; Surrender  
**RW :** **Usurpation; Usurper**

## USURY (n)

**Cue :** Peg it with ‘interest’  
**Mean :** lending of money at excessively high rate of interest  
**Ex :** Even in the present times, the poor peasants in rural India often become the victims of usury of the rich money lenders, who lend the money at exorbitant rates of interest.

### UTILITARIAN (adj)

- Cue :** **UTILITARIAN** → *utilit* – ‘utility’ + *arian* – ‘one advocating’  
**Mean :** stressing usefulness over beauty or other considerations; practical  
**Ex :** (i) These plastic chairs are too utilitarian for my taste.  
(ii) The utilitarian are scornful of the profligacy of the rich.  
**Syn :** Expedient; Functional; Pragmatic  
**Ant :** Futile; Impractical; Nonfunctional; Useless

### UTOPIA (n)

- Cue :** **UTOPIA** → : *U* – ‘not’ + *top* – ‘place’ i.e. any perfect place  
**Mean :** an imagined perfect place or state  
**Ex :** The idealism of the new Prime Minister is utopian.  
**Syn :** Eden ; Elysian; Paradise  
**Ant :** Actuality; Dystopia; Hell; Reality  
**RW :** **Dystopia** (a hypothetical place, society, or situation in which conditions and the quality of life are dreadful)

### UXORIAL (adj)

- Cue :** **UXORIAL** → in the root: *uxor* – ‘wife’  
**Mean :** pertaining to one’s wife  
**Ex :** In his anxiety to outperform others in the career pursuits, the husband cannot afford to sidestep uxorial duties.  
**RW :** **Uxoricide** (the murder of a wife by her husband); **Uxorious** (irrationally fond of or submissive to one’s wife)

### VACILLATE (n)

- Cue :** **vacillare** – ‘to sway to and fro’  
**Mean :** to sway to and fro; to be continually changing from one opinion or feeling to another  
**Ex :** He seems to be vacillating between the decision of accepting the new position and retiring.  
**Syn :** Fluctuate; Stagger; Totter; Waver  
**Ant :** Resolve

### VACUOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **VACUOUS** → *vac* – ‘empty’  
**Mean :** empty of matter, showing lack of interest, intelligence or thought  
**Ex :** His vacuous comments do not affect me.  
**Syn :** Blank; Empty; Inane; Void  
**Ant :** Sane; Wise  
**RW :** **Evacuate** (to remove the contents); **Vacant**; **Vacation**; **Vacuity**; **Vacuole** (cavity within a cell); **Vacuum**

### VAGRANT (n)

- Cue :** Latin *vagari* – ‘to wander’  
**Mean :** a person who wanders from place to place  
**Ex :** His parents could not coax him out of his vagrant ways.  
**Syn :** Aimless; Itinerant; Nomadic; Tramp  
**RW :** **Vagabond**; **Vagary**; **Vague**

### VAINGLORY (n)

**Cue :** **V A I N G L O R Y** → **vain** – ‘worthless’ + **glory** – ‘honour’  
**Mean :** extreme self-pride and boastfulness  
**Ex :** The politician’s vainglorious speech was meant to outshine his opponent’s.  
**Syn :** Arrogance  
**Ant :** Humility; Modesty  
**RW :** **Vain; Vanity**

### VALOROUS (adj)

**Cue :** **V A L O R O U S** → **val/vail/valu** – ‘value, strength’  
**Mean :** bravery or courage  
**Ex :** The valorous young man refused to give in to injustice.  
**Syn :** Chivalrous; Intrepid; Valiant  
**RW :** **Ambivalent** (uncertain); **Avail; Convalescence** (gradual recovery of health and strength after disease); **Countervail; Equivalent; Evaluate; Prevail; Valiant; Valid; Value**

### VAPID (adj)

**Cue :** Latin **vapidus** – ‘stale wine’  
**Mean :** without strength, lacking interest  
**Ex :** The vapid tone of the lecturer made the class feel sleepy.  
**Syn :** Bland; Dull; Insipid; Stale; Unexciting; Uninteresting  
**Ant :** Enthusiastic; Lively; Spirited; Stimulating  
**RW :** **Vapor**

### VATIC (adj)

**Cue :** From Latin – **vates** – ‘prophet’  
**Mean :** resembling or characteristic of a prophet or prophecy  
**Ex :** Nostradamus wrote vatic book with ready and infallible predictions.  
**Syn :** Divinatory; Mantic; Oracular; Sibylline  
**RW :** **Vatican; Vaticide; Vaticinate** (Prophecy)

### VAUNT (v)

**Cue :** Related to ‘**vain**’  
**Mean :** to show off, brag about something  
**Ex :** The much vaunted show did not go according to our expectations.  
**Syn :** Boast; Brag  
**Ant :** Downplay; Modesty; Unpretentiousness  
**RW :** **Vanity**

### VEHEMENT (adj)

**Cue :** **vehere** – ‘to move/carry’  
**Mean :** showing or caused by strong feelings, usually negative; forceful  
**Ex :** They were vehement in their protestations.  
**Syn :** Fervent; Forceful; Impetuous  
**RW :** **Vehicle**

### VENAL (adj)

**Cue :** **Venalis** – ‘for sale’  
**Mean :** open to do dishonest things / capable of being obtained for a price  
**Ex :** His venal ways led to his conviction and imprisonment for five years.  
**Syn :** Corrupt; Dishonorable; Unscrupulous  
**Ant :** Charitable; Ethical; Honest; Scrupulous  
**RW :** **Vend; Vendee; Vending machine; Vendor**



### VENERABLE (adj)

**Cue :** *Venerari* – ‘to worship’  
**Mean :** worthy of respect or reverence by reason of age or dignity, character, or position  
**Ex :** The venerable scholar was the chief guest of the function.  
**Syn :** August; Esteemed; Respected; Reverend  
**Ant :** Dishonorable  
**RW :** *Reverence; Venerate*

### VENIAL (adj)

**Cue :** **V E N I A L** → From Latin *venia* – ‘forgiveness / grace / love’  
**Mean :** easily excused or forgiven  
**Ex :** His was a venial offence and so he was let off with a severe reprimand.  
**Syn :** Excusable; Excusable; Pardonable; Peccadillo; Vindictory  
**Ant :** Deadly; Serious  
**RW :** *Venus*

### VERACITY (adj)

**Cue :** **V E R A C I T Y** → *ver/veri* – ‘true’  
**Mean :** truthfulness, honest, accuracy  
**Ex :** The veracity of his statement remains to be established.  
**Syn :** Candor; Genuineness; Trustworthiness  
**Ant :** Deceit; Deviousness; Evasion  
**RW :** *Aver* (affirm); *Veracious* (honest); *Verdict*; *Verity* (true principle or belief); *Verisimilitude*

### VERBOSE (adj)

**Cue :** **V E R B O S E** → *verb* – ‘word’  
**Mean :** using or containing too many words  
**Ex :** The judge was patient enough to listen to the verbose argumentation of the attorney.  
**Syn :** Prolix; Wordy  
**Ant :** Breviloquent; Taciturn  
**RW :** *Verbal*; *Verbatim*; *Verbiage* (overabundance of words); *Verbosity*

### VERDURE (n)

**Cue :** **V E R D U R E** → *Verd* – ‘green’  
**Mean :** (1) green growing plants and trees  
 (2) a fresh, healthy, or flourishing condition  
**Ex :** The verdure of the garden provided a refreshing interlude in the concrete jungle.  
**Syn :** (1) Flora; Greenery; Lushness; Vegetation  
 (2) Abundance; Freshness; Healthiness; Luxuriance; Richness  
**Ant :** Barren; Meagerness  
**RW :** *Verdant* (covered with green vegetation; inexperienced; immature); *Verdigris* (greenish scale formed on copper, bronze, etc)

### VERSIMILITUDE (n)

**Cue :** **V E R S I M I L I T U D E** → *ver/veri* – ‘true’  
**Mean :** appearance of truth, likeliness to reality  
**Ex :** The verisimilitude of the artist’s work is laudable indeed.  
**Syn :** Authenticity; Validity  
**Ant :** Falseness; Fantasy

### VERTIGO (n)

- Cue :** **VERTIGO** → from **vert/vers** → 'to turn'
- Mean :** the sensation of dizziness; a confused, disoriented state of mind
- Ex :** After the roller-coaster ride, I was in vertigo for a few moments.
- Syn :** Dizziness; Giddiness; Reeling; Unsteadiness
- RW :** **Aversion** (intense dislike); **Avert**; **Controversy**; **Convert**; **Convertible**; **Divert**; **Introvert**; **Invert**; **Pervert** (corrupt); **Reverse**; **Revert**; **Subvert** (to overthrow or destroy); **Versatile** (able to turn easily from one subject or occupation to another; many-sided)

### VERNACULAR (n)

- Cue :** **VERNACULAR** → from **verna** – 'native'
- Mean :** the everyday language spoken by a people as distinguished from the literary language; a variety of such everyday language specific to a social group or region
- Ex :** The vernaculars of Punjab vary from region to region.
- Syn :** Colloquial speech; Dialect; Lingo; Patois

### VEX (v)

- Cue :** **VEX** → from **vexare** – 'to agitate'
- Mean :** to annoy or irritate
- Ex :** Don't vex me with so many silly questions.
- Syn :** Bother; Irrk; Irritate
- Ant :** Appease; Assuage; Comfort; Soothe
- RW :** **Vexation**; **Vexatious**

### VIABLE (adj)

- Cue :** from **viv/vit** – 'alive, life'
- Mean :** (1) capable of living, developing, or germinating under favorable conditions  
(2) capable of success or continuing effectiveness
- Ex :** A human fetus is considered *viable* when it weighs 500 grams or more.
- Syn :** Alive; Functional; Growing; Performable; Possible; Practicable; Promising; Workable
- Ant :** Impractical; Inconceivable; Unfeasible
- RW :** **Convivial** (sociable); **Revive**; **Survive**; **Vitality**; **Vivacious** (lively); **Vivid** (full of life); **Vivisection**

### VICARIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **VICARIOUS** → From **vic/vicis** – 'change, substitute'
- Mean :** experienced through someone else's feelings or actions
- Ex :** The husband's vicarious enjoyment of his wife's success was refreshing.
- Syn :** Empathetic; Substituted
- Ant :** Callous; Unsympathetic
- RW :** **Vicar** (a person who acts in place of another; deputy)

### VICISSITUDE (n)

- Cue :** **VICISSITUDE** → **vic/vicis** – 'change, substitute'
- Mean :** (1) a condition of constant change or alternation, as a natural process  
(2) [pl.] unpredictable changes or variations that keep occurring in life, fortune, etc.; shifting circumstances; ups and downs
- Ex :** The vicissitudes of life have taken a toll on her looks.
- Syn :** Fluctuations; Uncertainty
- Ant :** Stability; Stagnation; Uniformity

### VILIFY (v)

- Cue :** VILIFY → from **vil** – ‘base, mean’  
**Mean :** to make malicious and abusive statements about somebody  
**Ex :** The judge cautioned the prosecution against attempts to vilify the defendants without evidence.  
**Syn :** Calumniate; Defame; Malign; Revile; Slander  
**Ant :** Compliment; Glorify; Honour; Praise  
**RW :** **Revile** (to make a fierce or abusive verbal attack on somebody or something); **Vile** (disgusting); **Vilipend; Villain**

### VILIPEND (v)

- Cue :** VILIPEND → **vil** – ‘base, mean’ + **pend** – ‘to weigh / consider’  
**Mean :** (1) to treat or view somebody with contempt  
 (2) to make malicious or contemptuous statements about somebody  
**Ex :** The rich vilipend the lower classes for the latter’s lack of enterprise.  
**Syn :** Belittle; Decry; Derogate; Disesteem  
**Ant :** Compliment; Praise

### VINDICATE (v)

- Cue :** **vindicare** – ‘to claim, set free’  
**Mean :** (1) to clear of blame or suspicion  
 (2) to prove the truth of something under dispute; to justify  
**Ex :** Falsely implicated in a case, his position was ultimately vindicated.  
**Syn :** (1) Absolve; Acquit; Free  
 (2) Bear out; Justify; Warrant  
**Ant :** Accuse; Blame; Convict  
**RW :** **Vindicator; Vindictive** (spiteful, vengeful)

### VIRILE (adj)

- Cue :** VIRILE → from **vir** – ‘man’  
**Mean :** showing qualities of a grown up man; having manly strength or vigor; forceful  
**Ex :** He was as athletic and virile as his father.  
**Syn :** Macho; Masculine  
**Ant :** Effeminate; Impotent; Unmanly  
**RW :** **Virtue; Virtuoso**

### VIRTUOSO (n)

- Mean :** a person with masterly ability, technique, personal style, skill or technique in the arts  
**Ex :** Beethoven was considered a virtuoso in music.  
**Syn :** Ace; Adept; Connoisseur; Crackerjack; Maestro; Whiz; Wizard  
**Ant :** Amateur; Bench-warmer; Neophyte; Novice; Rookie; Tyro

### VIRULENT (adj)

- Cue :** From **virus** – ‘poison’  
**Mean :** (1) extremely poisonous or injurious; deadly  
**Ex :** The virulence of the 1918 flu epidemic caused many deaths.  
**Mean :** (2) figuratively: bitterly antagonistic or spiteful; full of hate and enmity  
**Ex :** Infuriated by his criticism in the media, the minister made a virulent attack on the press.  
**Syn :** Hostile; Rancorous; Spiteful; Venomous; Vituperative

**VISCERAL (adj)**

- Cue :** V I S C E R A L → **viscera** – 'internal organs' (the large organs inside the body, including the heart, stomach, lungs and intestines)
- Mean :** proceeding from instinctive and emotional reactions rather than from reasoned thinking
- Ex :** Her approach is visceral rather than intellectual.
- Syn :** Instinctive; Intuitive
- Ant :** **Reasoned**

**VITRIOLIC (adj)**

- Cue :** V I T R I O L I C → **vitriol** is an old-fashioned word for 'sulphuric acid'
- Mean :** bitterly abusive feeling or expression
- Ex :** His constant vitriolic criticism has earned him a bad name.
- Syn :** Acerbic; Biting; Caustic; Cutting; Malicious; Offensive; Rancorous; Sarcastic; Sharp; Stinging
- Ant :** Kind

**VITUPERATE (v)**

- Cue :** **vitium** – 'vice, fault' + **perare** – 'to prepare'
- Mean :** to make harsh criticism, to be abusive
- Ex :** Use of vituperative language should be avoided in front of children.
- Syn :** Abuse; Asperse; Berate; Blame; Calumniate; Castigate; Censure
- Ant :** Compliment; Praise
- RW :** **Vitiate**

**VIVACIOUS (adj)**

- Cue :** From **Viv/vita/vivi** – 'alive, live'
- Mean :** full of life and animation, lively
- Ex :** Her vivaciousness makes her the life and soul of every party.
- Syn :** Animated; Bubbly; Spirited
- Ant :** Dispirited; Languid; Lethargic; Lifeless; Sloth-like; Sluggish
- RW :** **Viva** (long live); **Viviparous**; **Vivisection**

**VIVIPAROUS (adj)**

- Cue :** from **vivi** – 'alive'
- Mean :** giving birth to living offspring that develops within the mother's body
- Ex :** Most mammals, including human beings, are viviparous.
- Ant :** **Oviparous** (producing eggs which hatch after leaving the body of the female)

**VOCIFEROUS (adj)**

- Cue :** V O C I F E R O U S → **voc/vok/vow** – 'voice' + **-ous** – 'full of'
- Mean :** loud, noisy or vehement in making one's feelings known
- Ex :** His vociferous complaints were not paid heed to.
- Syn :** Blatant; Boisterous; Clamorous; Strident
- Ant :** Quite; Silent; Subtle
- RW :** **Advocate**; **Avocation**; **Avow** (to acknowledge openly); **Convocation**; **Equivocate** (to use equivocal terms in order to deceive, mislead, hedge, etc); **Evoke**; **Invocation** (to call on for aid or protection); **Provocative**; **Provoke**; **Revoke**; **Vocal**; **Vocation**

### VOLITION (n)

- Cue :** **VOLITION** → From **vol** – ‘will, wish’  
**Mean :** power to make a decision  
**Ex :** He left the job of his own volition.  
**Syn :** Accord; Desire; Will; Wish  
**RW :** **Benevolent** (doing or inclined to do good); **Malevolent** (ill - will); **Voluntary; Volunteer**

### VOLUPTUOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **VOLUPTUOUS** → **volupt** – ‘pleasure’  
**Mean :** suggestive of unrestrained pleasure to the senses  
**Ex :** The voluptuous sculptural beauties in the Ajanta caves are renowned works of art.  
**Syn :** Enticing; Erotic; Seductive; Sensual; Sensuous  
**RW :** **Voluptuary**

### VORACIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **VORACIOUS** → **vor** – ‘eat’  
**Mean :** (1) greedy in eating; devouring or eager to devour large quantities of food  
**Ex :** My younger sister has a voracious appetite.  
**Mean :** (2) very greedy or eager in some desire or pursuit; insatiable  
**Ex :** He is a voracious reader, and keeps his nose always in a book.  
**Syn :** Avid; Gluttonous; Insatiable; Rapacious; Ravenous  
**Ant :** Quenched; Satiated  
**RW :** **Carnivorous; Devour; Herbivorous; Omnivorous**

### VOYEUR (n)

- Mean :** a person who habitually and furtively gets sexual satisfaction from ogling etc  
**Ex :** The new resident of the building was shunned by neighbors for being a voyeur.  
**Syn :** Peeping Tom

### WAIF (n)

- Cue :** From **veif** – ‘anything flapping about’ (wave)  
**Mean :** (1) a person who has no home or friends such as an orphaned or forsaken child  
 (2) something found and unclaimed, as an object cast up by the sea, or a stray animal  
**Ex :** The poor little waif was desperately seeking shelter from the rain.  
**Syn :** Homeless; Ragamuffin; Stray; Urchin  
**RW :** **Vibrate; Waft; Wave**

### WAIVE (v)

- Cue :** From **veifa** – ‘to fluctuate / abandon’  
**Mean :** (1) to give up a claim or a right voluntarily  
 (2) to refrain from enforcing a rule or penalty  
**Ex :** If you apologize, I'll waive off your penalty.  
**Syn :** Abandon; Dispense with; Forgo; Reject; Relinquish  
**Ant :** Assert; Assume; Claim; Retain

### WANTON (adj)

- Cue :** **W A N T O N** → **wan** – ‘lacking’ + **togen** – ‘discipline’  
**Mean :** (1) sexually promiscuous  
 (2) without regard for propriety  
**Ex :** That wanton woman has a string of lovers.  
**Syn :** Immoral; Licentious; Malicious; Uncontrolled; Unprovoked; Unrestrained  
**Ant :** Decent; Moral; Righteous  
**RW :** **Wane**

### WARD (n/v)

- Cue :** **wer** – ‘to turn’ / **warth** – ‘to guard’  
**Mean :** (1) a division  
 (2) a person under guard  
 (3) a defense  
**Ex :** (i) The sick industrialist has been admitted to a private ward in the hospital.  
 (ii) Schools expect parents to bear complete responsibility of their wards before and after school - hours.  
**RW :** **Warden** (guardian for the wards); **Wardrobe** (ward + robe); **Ward-room** (lounge for officers)

### WELTER (n)

- Cue :** **wella** – ‘to roll / boil up’  
**Mean :** (1) to roll about or wallow as in mud  
 (2) to be deeply involved  
 (3) to be soaked in blood  
 (4) a surging, rolling, or heaving motion made by the sea or waves  
 (5) a state of turmoil, commotion  
**Ex :** He was so weltered in work that he didn't feel the tremors of the earthquake.  
**Syn :** Entangle; Flounder; Grovel; Immerse; Muddle

### WHET (v)

- Mean :** (1) sharpen by rubbing  
 (2) stimulate (interest or desire)  
**Ex :** (i) He decided to whet the knife before slaughtering the goat.  
 (ii) My appetite was whetted by the aromatic fragrance of the cake.  
**Syn :** File; Grind; Hone; Motivate  
**Ant :** Blunt; Dampen; Dishearten

### WHIT (n)

- Cue :** Used in negative constructions  
**Mean :** The least bit, smallest particle  
**Ex :** He has changed not a whit.  
**Syn :** Bit; Iota; Jot; Mite  
**Ant :** Lot; Maximum; Most

### WILY (adj)

- Cue :** **wile** – ‘a sly trick’  
**Mean :** full of evil  
**Ex :** He's a wily little boy who always gets his own way.  
**Syn :** Crafty; Cunning; Sly; Sneaking

### WINNOW (v)

- Cue :** Peg it with **wind** – ‘air in motion’  
**Mean :** to blow or chaff away in order to separate the grain  
**Ex :** The new HR manager winnowed out three candidates out of a list of 15 candidates.  
**Syn :** Scatter; Separate; Sieve; Thresh

### WONT (n /v /adj)

- Cue :** **wunian** – ‘to be accustomed’  
**Mean :** custom, habit  
**Ex :** (i) He was wont to rise early.  
(ii) As was his wont, he rose up early.  
**Syn :** Custom; Fashion; Habit; Practice

### WRAITH (n)

- Cue :** **warth** – ‘guardian angel’  
**Mean :** apparition of a person appearing just before his death  
**Ex :** The wraith-like woman was obviously very ill.  
**Syn :** Apparition; Ghost; Phantom; Specter  
**RW :** **Ward**

### WREST (v)

- Cue :** **wer** – ‘to turn, bend, twist’  
**Mean :** to seize after grappling for; to pull away  
**Ex :** The armed forces have repeatedly wrested power in countries like Pakistan.  
**Syn :** Extort; Solicit; Squeeze; Wrench  
**RW :** **Wrench; Wrestle; Wriggle; Wring; Wrist; Writhe; Wry**

### WRIT (n)

- Cue :** From **write**  
**Mean :** (1) a legal order permitting or prohibiting some action  
(2) something written  
**Ex :** A writ is filed in a court of law.  
**Syn :** Decree; Order; Sub-poena; Summons; Warrant

### XENOPHOBIA (n)

- Cue :** **XENOPHOBIA** → **xeno** – ‘alien /stranger’ + **phobia** – ‘fear’  
**Mean :** fear of strangers or anything foreign or strange  
**Ex :** All fears of the washing up of Indian industry against competition of MNC’s have just proved to be xenophobia.  
**Syn :** Jingoism; Provincialism; Ultra-nationalism  
**RW :** **Xenogenesis** (xeno + gen – heterogeneous offspring); **Xenolith** (a rock not belonging to the strata)

### XEROGRAPHY (n)

- Cue :** **XEROGRAPHY** → **xero** – ‘dry’ + **graphy**  
**Mean :** a dry copying process involving static electricity  
**Ex :** Xerography or Xerox soon led to mass production of written material without even typesetting.  
**RW :** **Xerophilous** (plants or animals adapted to dry conditions); **Xerophthalmia** (dryness of eye balls due to deficiency of vitamin A); **Xerophytes**

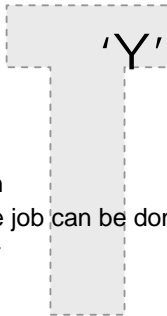
## XYLOGRAPHY (n)

**Cue :** XYLOGRAPHY → *xylo* – ‘wood’ + *graph*

**Mean :** art of engraving on wood

**Ex :** Xylography as an art is not being pursued by many.

**RW :** ***Xylophagous*** (feeding on wood); ***Xylophone*** (a musical instrument originally consisting of wooden bars and wooden hammers); ***Xylotomy*** (art of wood cutting)



## YAMMER (v)

**Cue :** ***geomor*** – ‘sad’

**Mean :** to whine, whimper or complain

**Ex :** Don't yammer; tell me how the job can be done.

**RW :** ***Fuss; Nag; Snivel; Whimper***

## YANK (v)

**Mean :** to pull suddenly

**Ex :** The electrician yanked the nail out.

**Syn :** Jerk; Pull; Tug; Wrench

## YEOMAN (n /adj)

**Cue :** corrupted form of youngman

**Mean :** (1) a farmer who cultivates his own land

(2) valiant manner or service

**Ex :** Leaders of the freedom struggle have rendered yeoman's service to the cause of the nation.

## YOKE (n /v)

**Cue :** Sanskrit '***yuga***' for two

**Mean :** (1) harness for joining together a pair of oxen

(2) oppressive domination

**Ex :** (i) The farmer yoked the cattle together for ploughing the fields.

(ii) Gandhi played a stellar role in getting India freed from the British yoke.

**Syn :** Crossbar; Harness; Splice

**Ant :** Separate; Sever

**RW :** ***Yokel*** (a rustic)

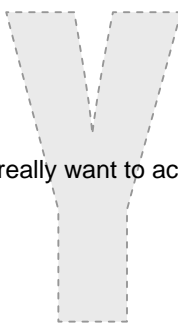
## YONDER (adj)

**Mean :** farther, more distant

**Ex :** Look no yonder; join in if you really want to achieve success.

**Syn :** Distant; Farther

**RW :** ***Beyond; Thither***





# 'Z'

## ZANY (n/adj)

*Mean :* (1) a clown or a buffoon

(2) strange, surprising or uncontrolled in an amusing way

*Ex :* She thought she looked pretty at the party but I found her dress rather zany with those multi-coloured frills looking like a clown's dress.

*Syn :* Buffoon; Dumb

## ZEALOT (n)

*Cue :* **ZEALOT** → From **zeal** – 'intense enthusiasm'

*Mean :* one who is driven by zeal, often to an extreme or excessive degree

*Ex :* A non-catholic zealot tried to assassinate the Pope.

*Syn :* Dogmatist; Faddist; Fanatic; Partisan

## ZENITH (n)

*Mean :* the point in the sky directly above the head of an observer, acme or peak

*Ex :* He has reached the zenith of his career at a rather early age.

*Syn :* Acme; Pinnacle; Summit

*Ant :* Nadir

## ZEPHYR (n)

*Cue :* **ZEPHYR** → From **zephyrus** – 'Greek god of wind'

*Mean :* a soft gentle breeze

*Ex :* While lying under a tree in a garden, we enjoyed the late evening zephyr.

*Syn :* Breeze; Draft; Waft; West wind

## ZOANTHROPY (n)

*Cue :* **ZOANTHROPY** → **zoa** – 'animal' + **anthropes** – 'mankind'

*Mean :* the belief that one is or can become a beast

*Ex :* Some people still believe in Zoanthropy.

*RW :* **Zoologist**