

LINKING UP THE WORDS (VOCAB)

‘C’

CABAL (adv)

- Cue** : **C A B A L** → originally, an acronym for five intriguing ministers of Charles II, namely: Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley and Lauderdale
- Mean** : group of conspirators or plotters particularly one formed for political purposes; group of people joined by a secret
- Ex** : Cabals and courtiers let the king down.
- Syn** : Clique; Conspirators; Intriguers

CACOETHES (n)

- Cue** : **C A C O E T H E S** → **kakos** – ‘bad’ + **ethos** – ‘habit / disposition’
- Mean** : itch or irresistible urge/ mania
- Ex** : His intense love for dogs is almost a cocoethes.
- RW** : **Cackle** (laugh harshly and shrilly, say something with harsh shrill laugh); **Cacodemon** (an evil spirit); **Cacophony** (bad + sound/voice → an unpleasant combination of loud, often jarring, sounds)

CADENCE (n)

- Cue** : **C A D E N C E** → **cadare** – ‘to fall’ → flow of rhythm in verse or music
- Mean** : rhythm / inflection / modulation of voice
- Ex** : the cadence of Jagjit Singh’s voice held the audience spellbound.
- RW** : **Cadaver** (here *fall* metaphorically means to die - of or like a corpse); **Cascade** (waterfall); **Decadent** (undergoing a process of decline or decay, especially in morals)

CANDID (adj)

- Cue** : **C A N D I D** → **candere** – ‘to shine/white’
- Mean** : frank, free from prejudice, clear
- Ex** : Politicians are expected to be diplomatic, not candid.
- Ant** : Caggy; Cunning; Diplomatic; Sly
- RW** : **Candidate** (original use - white-robed); **Candle; Candor**

CANNIBAL (n)

- Mean** : an eater of the flesh of its own species
- Ex** : Some of the tribes of aborigines were rumored to be cannibals.
- Syn** : Anthrophagite; Anthropophagus
- RW** : **Cannibalize** (to strip old or worn equipment of parts for use in other machines; similarly, to take personnel from one’s old organization to build up a new one)

CAPE (n)

- Cue** : **C A P E** → relate with *cap*
- Mean** : (i) a hooded cloak, an outer wear
(ii) a piece of land jutting into a body of water (headland)
- Ex** : Cape Comrin is the southernmost tip of India.
- RW** : **Capital; Caption; Capitulate** (yield, submit)

CAPTIOUS (adj)

- Cue** : **C A P T I O U S** → **capare** – ‘to catch/ take hold’ and **captio** – ‘fallacious argument’
- Mean** : hyper critical, only for the sake of fault-finding

- Ex** : He preferred to stay back at office till late at night rather than to go home to his captious wife.
- RW** : **Capable; Capacity; Captivate** (enchant, enthrall); **Captive**

CARNIVOROUS (adj)

- Cue** : **CARNIVOROUS** → **carn** – ‘flesh’ + **vorare** – ‘devour’
- Mean** : flesh eating
- Ex** : Carnivorous animals flourish when herbivores do.
- RW** : **Carnage; Carnal; Incarnation**

CAROUSEL (n)

- Cue** : **CAROUSEL / CAROUSAL** → **carro** – ‘chariot/ stately carriage’
- Mean** : (1) originally a playful tournament of knights on Chariots; now drinking revelry
(2) a merry-go-round
- Ex** : The late night parties often culminate in carousels.
- RW** : **Car; Carriage**

CARRION (n)

- Cue** : **CARRION** → **caro** – ‘corpse, flesh’
- Mean** : dead and old meat unfit for consumption, food for scavengers
- Syn** : Improper disposal of carrion often leads to epidemics.
- RW** : **Carcass**

CASSANDRA (n)

- Cue** : Originally the name of a Greek princess having **gift of prophecy which no one believed**
- Mean** : a person whose gloomy prophecies are disregarded
- Ex** : Pay no heed to the cassetras and do your best.

CATACHRESIS (n)

- Cue** : **CATACHRESIS** → **kata** – ‘against’ + **chres** – ‘use’
- Mean** : misuse of a word or phrase
- Ex** : His use of English language is full of catachresis.
- RW** : **Catechesis** (esp. religious teaching as in question answer form)

CATACLYSM (n)

- Cue** : **CATACLYSM** → **cata** – ‘down’ + **clysm** – ‘wash’
- Mean** : a deluge or upheaval
- Ex** : Cataclysms like the French Revolution change the course of history.
- RW** : **Catalyst** (a person or substance that facilitates change); **Catapult** (sling shot); **Cataract** (waterfall/ eye disease); **Catastrophe** (great disaster)

CATHARSIS (n)

- Cue** : A Greek expression meaning *purging* or *cleaning*
- Mean** : purification of emotions through life’s tragic experiences or difficulties
- Ex** : Every emotional crisis in life is an experience in Catharsis.
- RW** : **Catheter** (a tube for purging waste body fluids)

CAVALCADE (n)

- Cue** : **CAVALCADE** → **caval** – ‘relating to horse’ → a procession on horseback (originally a parade of horsemen and horse-driven carriages)
- Mean** : any procession or occurring of events in succession
- Ex** : Escalating violence in the region resulted in a cavalcade of bomb attacks.

RW : **Cavalier** (originally a gallant and courteous horseman, currently taken to mean an informal, easygoing approach); **Cavil** (trivial fault finding, quibbling); **Cavort** (horse + vault→horse around leap, prance); **Chivalry** (valor)

CAVEAT (n)

Cue : Latin expression - take heed/beware
Mean : filing a petition in court seeking notice/information on any new development / plea from the opposing party
Ex : The petitioner filed a caveat in the court for getting information on the documents or pleas filed by the respondent.
RW : **Caveat Emptor** (let the buyer beware)

CEDE (v)

Cue : **C E D E** → **cedere** – ‘to yield’
Mean : transfer / yield title
Ex : He has ceded his real estate to the school for the deaf and dumb.
RW : **Cesspool** (a covered pit to receive sewage/ a centre of moral fifth); **Concede**; **Recede**; **Secede**

CELERITY (n)

Cue : **C E L E R I T Y** → **celer** – ‘swift’
Mean : swiftness, agility
Ex : Jackie Chan’s celerity holds the audience spellbound.
Syn : Alacrity; Promptness
Ant : Delay; Lassitude

CENSOR (v)

Cue : **Censere** → ‘to judge’
Mean : authorized examination, deletion of objectionable publication, movies, news items, etc.
Ex : The mail of armed services personnel is routinely censored
RW : **Censorious** (fault-finding, captious); **Censure**; **Census** (evaluating property/opinions of people)

CENTRIFUGAL (adj)

Cue : **C E N T R I F U G A L** → **centri + fugere** – ‘flow’
Mean : force radiating/departing from the centre
Ex : We use centrifugal pumps to push water up to the rooftop storage tanks.
RW : **Centrifuge** (whirling / expelling machine); **Centripetal** (centre + petera – fall i.e. force radiating towards the centre); **Concentric**; **Eccentric**

CEREBRATION (n)

Cue : **C E R E B R A T I O N** → ‘cerebral product’
Mean : brainwave, thought
Ex : Philosophical studies require quite a bit of cerebration.

CERVINE (adj)

Cue : **C E R V I N E** → **cerv** – ‘deer’
Mean : of or like a deer
Ex : The dancer’s cervine movements hardly betray her physical handicap.
RW : **Bovine**; **Canine**; **Cervid** (of the deer family); **Columbine** (of or like a dove); **Feline**; **Leonine** (of or like a lion); **Vulpine** (of or like a fox)

CHAFF (n)

- Mean* : husk, anything worthless, trash
Ex : We can't accept chaff at the price of grain.
RW : **Chafe** (to wear-off by rubbing, abrade); **Chaffing** (good-natured teasing, bantering)

CHARADE (n)

- Cue* : Chatter / gossip
Mean : a guessing game / a riddle
Ex : All his emotive talk is a charade to hoodwink the gullible.
RW : **Charisma** (gracefulness / charm); **Charlatan** (pronounced sharleton → a quack/phony)

CHATTEL (v)

- Cue* : Originally applied to **cattle**
Mean : piece of movable personal property
Ex : He lost his estate and chattel at the time of partition.
RW : **Chateau** (a French feudal castle; a large country house and estate)

CHERUBIC (adj)

- Cue* : **CHERUBIC** → **cherub** – 'a winged chubby child angel'
Mean : angelic, innocent-looking
Ex : The cherubic child radiated innocence.
RW : **Cherubim**

CHIROGRAPHY (n)

- Cue* : **CHIROGRAPHY** → **chiro** – 'hand/foot/body parts' + **graphy** – 'writing'
Mean : handwriting, penmanship
Ex : Chirography has become a rare art nowadays.
RW : **Chiropody** (treatment of hand and foot diseases); **Chiropractic** (practice of restoring health through manipulation of body parts, particularly spine)

CHOLERIC (adj)

- Cue* : **CHOLERIC** → **chole** – 'bile'
Mean : hot tempered
Ex : The marriage failed due to the choleric temperament of both the spouses.
Syn : Irascible; Irritable; Peevish
RW : **Agreeable; Mild mannered; Pleasant**

CHRONICLE (v/n)

- Cue* : **CHRONICLE** → **chron** – 'time'
Mean : to record in chronological order
Ex : Huen-Tsang has chronicled the events of his stay in India.
RW : **Anachronistic** (out of times); **Chronic; Synchronize**

CHUTE (shoot) (n)

- Cue* : Peg it with '**a fall**'
Mean : a steep slide through which something may be slid or dropped
Ex : The filled bags are dropped through the chute down to the loading platform.
RW : **Parachute**

CIRCUMAMBULATE (v)

- Cue* : **CIRCUMAMBULATE** → **circum** – 'around' + **ambulate** – 'move'
Mean : to walk round about

- Ex** : The thief circumambulated through the lanes, waiting for an opportune moment to break into the house.
- RW** : **Ambulance**; **Circlet** (small ring/circle); **Circuitous** (round about); **Circumlocution** (circum + log - to speak); **Circumscribe** (to draw a line around); **Circumspect** (cautious); **Circumvent** (to go around; to gain an advantage over)

CLAIRVOYANT (adj)

- Cue** : French Expression: **CLAIRVOYANT** → **clair** – ‘clear’ + **voyant** – ‘having vision’
- Mean** : (1) having great insight, keenly perceptive, discerning, judicious
(2) having foresight / intuition
- Ex** : Clairvoyance thrives on man’s fear of the future.

CLAUSTROPHOBIA (n)

- Cue** : **CLAUSTROPHOBIA** → **claustrum** – ‘enclosure’ + **phobia**
- Mean** : abnormal fear of being locked in a closed/ secluded place
- Ex** : A claustrophobic will always prefer to sleep in the open.
- RW** : **Cloister** (part of monastery closed off to the laity/ a covered arcade/a secluded existence)

CLEMENCY (n)

- Cue** : **Clemens** – ‘mercy’
- Mean** : (i) mild / lenient dispositions
(ii) mildness of weather/climate
- Ex** : Having failed to get relief from the Supreme Court, the convict appealed for Presidential clemency.
- Ant** : Harshness

COALESCE (v)

- Cue** : **COALESCE** → **co** – ‘together’ + **lesce** – ‘to grow’
- Mean** : blend, fuse, combine, amalgamate
- Ex** : We need to coalesce the best of oriental and western civilizations.
- RW** : **Adolescent**

CODA (n)

- Cue** : **Cauda** – ‘tail’
- Mean** : concluding part of any musical composition
- Ex** : The coda was a befitting finale to the opera.
- RW** : **Codex** (manuscript of a scripture); **Codicil** (an appendix or supplement to a will)

COEVAL (adj)

- Cue** : **COEVAL** → **co** – ‘together’ + **evam** – ‘age’ + **al**
- Mean** : of the same age, contemporary
- Ex** : Gautam Buddha and Vardhman Mahavira were almost coevals.
- RW** : **Primeval**; **Medieval**

COGITATE (v)

- Cue** : **COGITATE** → **co** + **agitate** – ‘Put your heads down to thought’
- Mean** : to give serious consideration / thought
- Ex** : It is high time the government cogitates to introduce eco-friendly legislation.
- Syn** : Contemplate; Meditate; Ponder; Ruminant
- RW** : **Cognatus** {co + gnatus (to be born) → of common descent, family, root}

COGNITION (n)

- Cue** : **COGNITION** → **Cogn** – ‘to know’
Mean : broad knowledge, understanding, perception
Ex : The success of the new economic policy will largely depend upon cognition of international market forces
RW : **Cognizant** (aware or informed); **Cognomen** (nomen → name → surname, family name, nickname); **Cognoscente** (having specialized knowledge particularly in fine arts. connoisseur)

COHERENT (adj)

- Cue** : **COHERENT** → **co + here** – ‘to stick’
Mean : lucid, clear, logical
Ex : The union government is yet to frame a coherent power policy
RW : **Adherent; Cohere; Cohesion; Cohesive; Heredity; Inherent**

COHORT (n)

- Cue** : **COHORT** → **co + hort** – ‘inner circle’
Mean : retinue, confidant, armed band
Ex : Hitler and his cohorts seriously believed that they could conquer the world.
RW : **Exhort**

COLISEUM (v)

- Cue** : Variant of ancient **colosseum** amphitheater of Rome
Mean : an amphitheater or a large theater for public performances
Ex : The coliseum was jam-packed on the occasion of ‘Jagjit Singh nite’.
RW : **Auditorium; Collegium** (a group of individuals with equal power or authority); **Gymnasium; Stadium**

COLLATE (v)

- Cue** : To bring together
Mean : to compile, examine, compare and consolidate
Ex : The anthropologists have collated data from varied sources to arrive at their conclusions.
RW : **Collaborate; Collage** (an artwork of assembled fragments); **Collateral** (additional / concomitant); **Collation** (n –also a light meal)

COLLOQUY (n)

- Cue** : **COLLOQUY** → **co – ‘together’ + loqui – ‘speak’**
Mean : a formal discussion
Ex : His timid query was lost in the colloquy.
RW : **Colloquial** (informal/non-literary talk); **Colloquium** (a conference/seminar); **Eloquent**

COMEUPPANCE (n)

- Cue** : **COMEUPPANCE** → **come + up + ance** – ‘come up’ (for judgement)
Mean : deserved punishment /rebuke
Ex : One has to face comeuppance for one’s deeds.

COMMISERATE (v)

- Cue** : **COMMISERATE** → **com + misery**
Mean : to sympathize, console, condole
Ex : Most commiserate for the poor, few lend a helping hand.
RW : **Commissary** (an authority, an officer, a deputy)

COMMUNE (n)

- Cue** : **COMMUNE** → 'To make Common / Share'
- Mean** : a group of people living together/ a small territorial division.
- Ex** : Some of the erstwhile communes in China were reported to be worse than ghettos.
- RW** : **Communal; Communion** (the art of sharing); **Communist; Community; Communiqué** (official announcement)

COMMUTE (v)

- Cue** : **COMMUTE** → **com** + **mut** – 'to change'
- Mean** : (1) to exchange for something less/severe (make punishment less severe)
(2) to travel (go back and forth to work)
- Ex** : The President commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment.
- RW** : **Mutable; Permutation**

COMPASSION (n)

- Cue** : **COMPASSION** → **com** – 'together' + **pathos** – 'suffering'
- Mean** : sharing pain and suffering, sympathy, forbearance
- Ex** : Educating the poor and helping them in other ways is the best way to show compassion for them.
- RW** : **Dispassionate; Impassive**

COMPLAISANT (adj)

- Cue** : **COMPLAISANT** → **com** – 'with/together' + **place** – 'to please'
- Mean** : of pleasing nature; affable; obliging
- Ex** : Beware of overly complaisant friends
- RW** : **Complacent** (self-satisfied); **Implacable** (cannot be pleased); **Placebo** (substance having pretence of cure for the patient); **Placid** (Pleasantly calm)

COMPLIANT (adj)

- Cue** : **COMPLIANT** → **com** + **ply** – 'to bend' → of bending nature
- Mean** : yielding, submissive
- Ex** : He is compliant and ready to do as asked.
- Syn** : Acquiescent; Obsequious
- Ant** : Adamant
- RW** : **Complicity** (partnership in wrong doing)

COMPENDIUM (n)

- Cue** : **COMPENDIUM** → **com** – 'together' + **pend** – 'weigh' (to weigh together)
- Mean** : concise but comprehensive summary
- Ex** : The compendium covers all the essentials of the original treatise.
- RW** : **Appendage; Appendix; Compendious; Depend; Pendant; Pendulum**

COMPORT (v)

- Cue** : **COMPORT** → **Com** – 'together' + **port** – 'carry'
- Mean** : to carry oneself/ behave/ conduct oneself
- Ex** : She comports herself in a dignified manner.
- RW** : **Deport; Export; Import; Purport**

COMPOSURE (n)

- Cue** : **COMPOSURE** → **com** – 'with/together' + **pos** – 'place/state'
- Mean** : in a state of tranquility, calmness
- Ex** : He does not lose his composure easily

Syn : Equanimity; Poise; Repose; Sangfroid; Serenity; Unflappability
Ant : Excitability; Hotheadedness
RW : **Composite; Position**

COMPUNCTION (n)

Cue : **COMPUNCTION** → **com + punc / pung** – ‘to prick’
Mean : a sense of prick (guilt or remorse) twinge of coercion
Ex : He has no compunctions about using and discarding others to suit his own convenience.
Syn : Contrition; Penitence; Qualm; Scruple
RW : **Punctilious** (exact in formalities/details); **Puncture; Pungent**

CONCATENATE (v)

Cue : **CONCATENATE** → **con – ‘with’ + catena – ‘chain’**
Mean : link as in a chain
Ex : The three accidents concatenate as they were caused by the same truck having a drunken driver.

CONCAVE (adj)

Cue : **CONCAVE** → **con + cave** – ‘hollow’ → originally the cave was supposed to be a hollow in the wild or in the hilly terrain)
Mean : hollow, curved like the inside of a bowl
Ex : The lenses are concave, not convex.
Syn : Cupped; Sunken
RW : **Cave; Cave-in; Cavity**

CONCLAVE (n)

Cue : **CONCLAVE** → **con + cla/clo** – ‘shut/close’ → Meeting in an enclosure
Mean : a private meeting, a convention
Ex : The Congress Party is holding a conclave in Goa.
RW : **Enclave**

CONCOCT (v)

Cue : **con + coc** – ‘cook’
Mean : to cook up, fabricate, invent
Ex : You have to concoct a new story every time you are late at office.

CONCORD (n)

Cue : **CONCORD** → **con – ‘with’ + core – ‘heart’**
Mean : unity of feeling, harmony, amity
Ex : Neighbors should learn to live in concord.
RW : **Concordance** (agreement); **Cordial; Coronary; Discord**

CONDESCEND (v)

Cue : **CONDESCEND** → **con + descend** → ‘to let oneself down’
Mean : stoop to make a concession
Ex : The mill-owner condescended to talk to the union representatives.
RW : **Condescending** (patronizing disdainful, supercilious)

CONDOMINIUM (n)

Cue : **CONDOMINIUM** → **con** – ‘together’ + **dominium** – ‘sovereignty’ → joint sovereignty / ownership
Mean : commonly owned apartment house
Ex : Gurgaon is fast developing into a concrete jungle of condominiums.
RW : **Domain; Domination; Dominion**

CONDIGN (adj)

Cue : **CONDIGN** → **con** + **dign** – ‘worth’ → worthy
Mean : worthy of punishment for wrong doing; deserved
Ex : No crime should escape condign punishment.
RW : **Dignified; Dignitary**

CONDUIT (n)

Cue : **CONDUIT** → **con** + **duct** – ‘to lead’
Mean : a pipe/channel for leading / carrying; a go-between
Ex : He worked as a conduit for the drug smugglers.
RW : **Abduct; Conduct; Induct; Product**

CONFETTI (n)

Cue : **CONFETTI** → **con** + **fac/fig** – ‘to make’
Mean : candies or their imitation (or bits of coloured paper) scattered at carnivals
Ex : The stall had been well decorated with balloons and confetti.
RW : **Confection** (Sweet meat); **Configuration** (arrangement of parts); **Effigy; Factory**

CONFLAGRATION (n)

Cue : **CONFLAGRATION** → **con** + **flag/flam** – ‘to burn’
Mean : (i) a devastating fire
(ii) a devastating riot/dispute
Ex : The conflagration in the shopping complex destroyed property worth tens of crores.
RW : **Flagrant; Flambeau** (a light torch); **Flamboyant; Flame**

CONFLUENCE (n)

Cue : **CONFLUENCE** → **con** + **flu** – ‘to flow’
Mean : a flowing together or coming together of rivers/people
Ex : Allahabad is situated at the confluence of the Ganga and the Yamuna.
RW : **Affluence; Effluence; Fluent; Fluid; Mellifluous** (pleasing music)

CONGENIAL (adj)

Cue : **CONGENIAL** → **con** + **gen** – ‘of birth or race’
Mean : suited to one’s temperament, disposition; favorable, amenable
Ex : The U.S. is congenial to enterprise.
Ant : Abhorrent; Disgusting
RW : **Carcinogenic; Congenital** (from birth inborn, innate); **Genetics; Progeny**

CONJECTURE (n)

Cue : **CONJECTURE** → **con** + **ject** – ‘throw’ → a throwing, a guess
Mean : forming of opinion without proof, an inference from incomplete data
Ex : To act on conjecture may sometimes put you in a problem.
Ant : Speculation; Surmise
RW : **Deject; Inject; Project; Reject; Trajectory**

CONJURE (v)

Cue	:	CONJURE → con + jur – ‘to swear’ → to swear by a spell of trick, magic
Mean	:	to summon a spirit through a spell of magic, to perform legerdemain, to invent
Ex	:	You have to conjure up something new to save your marriage.
RW	:	Abjure (renounce); Adjure (beg); Perjury (lying on oath)

CONNOISSEUR (n) French expression

Cue	:	Related with cognition (expert knowledge)
Mean	:	a discerning judge/expert usu. in fine arts/foods
Ex	:	The distilleries employ highly-paid connoisseurs to taste their product before it is sent to the market.
RW	:	Aesthete ; Bon vivant ; Epicure ; Gastronome

CONNUBIAL (adj)

Cue	:	CONNUBIAL → com + nub – ‘to marry/bride’
Mean	:	pertaining to marriage
Ex	:	Connubial litigation in India is on the rise.
Syn	:	Conjugal (Con + jug---yoke/joining); Marital; Nuptial
RW	:	Concubine ; Nubile (marriageable age or condition)

CONSECRATE (v)

Cue	:	CONSECRATE → con + secr – ‘sacred’
Mean	:	to set apart as holy, sacred
Ex	:	The Konark Temple is consecrated to the Sun god.
Ant	:	Baptize; Blessed; Hallowed; Sanctified
RW	:	Execration (to curse/hate); Sacrament ; Sacred ; Sacrifice ; Sanctuary

CONSPICUOUS (adj)

Cue	:	CONSPICUOUS → con + spec – ‘to see’
Mean	:	attracting attention; easy to see
Ex	:	The convener of the show was conspicuous by his absence.
Ant	:	Apparent; Marked; Noticeable; Striking
RW	:	Perspicacious (having keen mental perception); Retrospect ; Spectrum (broad range of related things); Suspicious

CONTEMN (v)

Cue	:	CONTEMN → con – ‘with’ + temn – ‘scorn’
Mean	:	vehement disapproval, to treat with contempt, scorn, disdain
Ex	:	The teacher contemned the casual approach of the students towards studies.
RW	:	Contempt ; Contention ; Contentious (argumentative/belligerent)

CONTIGUOUS (adj)

Cue	:	CONTIGUOUS → con + ting – ‘to touch upon’
Mean	:	adjacent, adjoining, abutting
Ex	:	Nepal is contiguous to India.
RW	:	Contingency ; Contingent (Conditional); Tinge

CONTINENCE (n)

Cue	:	CONTINENCE → con + tin/tain/ten – ‘to hold’
Mean	:	self-restraint; sexual chastity
Ex	:	The priests and nuns have to vow to a life of continence.
Syn	:	Abstinence; Celibacy; Moderation
RW	:	Contain ; Continent ; Sustenance

CONTRAPTION (n)

Cue : **CONTRAPTION** → *con* – ‘for contrive’ + *trap* + *tion*
 Mean : a contrived, makeshift appliance
 Ex : Surprisingly the contraption worked perfectly.
 RW : **Contrive** (to bring about / plan)

CONTRITE (adj)

Cue : **CONTRITE** → *con* + *trit* – ‘wear out/rub’
 Mean : penitent, apologetic
 Ex : Corrupt politicians, when brought to book, become contrite.
 RW : **Attrition** (loss of personnel; wearing out. A siege is a battle of attrition); **Contrition**

CONTUMACIOUS (adj)

Cue : **CONTUMACIOUS** → *con* + *tumere* – ‘to swell up’
 Mean : obstinate, stubborn, resisting authority
 Ex : The contumacious ways of leaders like Khrushchev and Brezhnev have much to do with the ultimate disintegration of U.S.S.R.
 RW : **Contumelious** (scornful, opprobrious); **Contumely** (n–haughty and contemptuous rudeness); **Tumor**

CONVIVIAL (adj)

Cue : **CONVIVIAL** → *con* – ‘together’ + *viv* – ‘live’ → happy to live together
 Mean : companionable, gregarious, socialite
 Ex : Many an executive owes his promotion to convivial spouses.

CONVOKE (v)

Cue : **CONVOKE** → *con* – ‘together’ + *voke* – ‘call’
 Mean : to call together (for a meeting)
 Ex : The general body meeting was convoked by the Board to seek endorsement of its decision to diversify.
 Ant : Convene
 RW : **Avocation; Convocation; Invoke; Vocabulary**

CONVOLUTED (adj)

Cue : **CONVOLUTED** → *con* – ‘together’ + *vol* – ‘wish’
 Mean : coiled around, intricate, complicated
 Ex : The whole matter has been convoluted into a jumble of fact and fiction.
 Ant : Knotty; Labyrinthine; Perplexing; Tangled
 RW : **Benevolent; Volition; Voluntary**

COPIOUS (adj)

Cue : **COPIOUS** → *co* + *opus* – ‘riches’
 Mean : plentiful, abundant
 Ex : The copious supply of goods has helped keep the prices down.
 RW : **Cornucopia** (corn → horn + copia --- symbol of abundance); **Corpulent** (obese/fleshy); **Opulence; Opus**

CORPOREAL (adj)

Cue : **CORPOREAL** → *corpus* – ‘body’
 Mean : of bodily or material nature

Ex : The spiritual rewards of success far outweigh the corporeal ones.
RW : **Corporation; Corpse; Corpulence** (obesity, stoutness of body); **Corpus** (body of principal amount); **Incorporate**

CORTEGE (n)

Cue : **C O R T E G E** → **corte** – 'court'
Mean : group of attendants / courtiers, retinue, entourage
Ex : The country can ill-afford the costs of foreign jaunts of large corteges of politicians.
RW : **Court**

COUP (n) pronounced 'Koo'

Cue : French expression originally meaning a box on the ear
Mean : a sudden blow or stroke, a revolt
Ex : Because of repeated military coups democracy could never develop firm roots in Pakistan.
RW : **Coup de grace** (a stroke of grace to put an end to misery, a death blow); **Coup de main** (a sudden overpowering stroke); **Coup de maître** (master stroke); **Coup de tat** (stroke of the State – an overthrow of regime); **Coupe** (a closed carriage for seating two)

COVERT (adj)

Cue : **C O V E R T** → **co** + **vert** – 'to turn/direct'
Mean : concealed; secret; hidden
Ex : The intelligence agencies undertake several covert operations.
RW : **Controversy; Divert; Extrovert; Inadvertent; Incontrovertible; Overt; Revert**

COWER (v)

Cue : **C O W E R** → Relate with **Cow**
Mean : to crouch/shrink down due to fear
Ex : The corrupt official cowered on being caught red-handed by the Anti-corruption Bureau.
Syn : Cringe; Flinch; Quail
RW : **Cow** (intimidate); **Cow down; Coy** (Shrinking from familiarity with others, bashful, shy)

CREDENCE (n)

Cue : **C R E D E N C E** → **cred** – 'belief /trust'
Mean : belief in testimony of another
Ex : I don't give any credence to his version of the story.
RW : **Credentials; Creditable; Credo** (set of beliefs); **Creed** (system of beliefs); **Credulous** (gullible)

CRESCENDO (n)

Cue : **C R E S C E N D O** → **cre** – 'to grow' + **scendo** – 'sound'
Mean : gradual increase in intensity usu. of sound
Ex : There is a crescendo of demand for reservation of seats for women in parliament.
RW : **Create; Crest; Crestfallen**

CREVICE (n)

Cue : **C R E V I C E** → **cre** – 'to grow'
Mean : a crack, fissure
Ex : The domestic insecticides are believed to linger in the nooks and crevices for a long time.
RW : **Accretion; Crack; Creak** (grating sound as of a door), **Creek** (a narrow winding inlet on a coastline or a brook); **Crevasse** (a deep fissure in a glacier, levee etc); Increment

CRYPTIC (adj)

Cue : **CRYPTIC** → **crypt** – 'hidden'
Mean : encoded, secret
Ex : Archaeologists have deciphered the most cryptic and ancient languages.
Syn : Puzzling
Ant : Candid; Exoteric
RW : **Apocryphal** (of doubtful authenticity); **Crypt** (Secret vault/chamber)

CULMINATE (v)

Cue : **CULMINATE** → **culmen** – 'Peak/summit'
Mean : to reach the highest point/end up
Ex : His effort has finally culminated into success
Syn : End; Finalize; Terminate
RW : **Column**

CULPABLE (adj)

Cue : **CULPABLE** → **culp** – 'crime'
Mean : blameworthy; censurable; reproachable
Ex : Sheltering a criminal is a culpable offence.
RW : **Culprit; Exculpate; Inculpate; Mea Culpa**

CUMBER (v)

Cue : **CUMBER** → **cumb** – 'to hinder / to lie down'
Mean : to burden in a troublesome way, hamper
Ex : He worked really hard unencumbered by the problems at home
Syn : Fetter; Shackle; Trammel
RW : **Cumbersome; Encumbrances; Succumb**

CURIO (n)

Cue : Shortened form of curiosity
Mean : any unusual or rare article (originally such items from Far East)
Ex : There are number of curio shops around places of tourist interest.
RW : **Curator** (Person in charge of a museum)

CURMUDGEON (n)

Mean : an ill-natured; churlish person
Ex : The wealthy man pretends to be a curmudgeon, but has been funding many charities secretly.
RW : **Smudge** (Smear/Stain)

CUTANEOUS (adj)

Cue : **CUTANEOUS** → **cutis** – 'skin'
Mean : relating to the skin
Ex : The diabetics should remain alert to cutaneous eruptions/injuries.
RW : **Cute; Cuticle** (hard skin around fingernails)

'D'

DAINTY (adj)

- Cue :** **DAINTY** → **dain/dign** – 'worth'
- Mean :** (1) delicately pretty or lovely
- Ex :** She was a small, dainty child, unlike her elder sister who was large and had big feet.
- Mean :** (2) difficult to please, fastidious
- Ex :** As a child, she used to be a dainty eater and her mother used to spend long hours patiently trying to feed her.
- Syn :** Charming; Comely; Cute; Petite
- Ant :** Coarse; Rough
- RW :** **Condign** (well deserved); **Deign** (do something that one considers to be below one's dignity, condescend); **Disdain** (to regard or treat as unworthy or beneath one's dignity)

DE JURE (adj/adv)

- Mean :** by right, legal rightfully
- Ex :** During the political turmoil in the country after the revolution, the army general ran the government, but the Prime Minister remained the de jure head of state.
- Syn :** Legitimate
- Ant :** **De facto** (existing or being such in actual fact though not by legal or official recognition)

DEADPAN (adj)

- Cue :** **DEADPAN** → **pan** (in slang sense of *face*) → 'dead faced'
- Mean :** an expressionless face
- Ex :** His deadpan demeanour was an exterior to hide the emotional turmoil he was passing through.
- Syn :** Blank; Impassive
- Ant :** Animated; expressive; lively.
- RW :** **Dead-end; Deadlock** (complete stand still)

DECAPITATE (v)

- Cue :** **DECAPITATE** → **de** – 'off' + **cap** – 'head'
- Mean :** to cut the head off, behead
- Ex :** In ancient times, the most common mode of death penalty was decapitation.
- Syn :** **Decollate** – {*de* + *collum* - neck (as in collar); guillotine (after the name of a French physician who recommended beheading in preference to less humane method)
- RW :** **Capital; Capitation** (payment /fee per capita or per head); **Capitulate; Caption**

DECIDUOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **DECIDUOUS** → **de** – 'off, down' + **cid/cad** – 'fall' → to fall off
- Mean :** (1) falling off or out at a certain season or stage of growth, as some leaves, antlers, insect wings, or milk teeth
(2) of trees or shrubs, shedding leaves annually
(3) not permanent, transitory, short lived
- Ex :** Deciduous trees are more common than evergreen plants.
- Ant :** Evergreen
- RW :** **Accident; Cadence** (modulations as in music); **Cascade; Decadence; Recidivist** (relapsing as into crime)

DECIMATE (v)

- Cue :** **DECIMATE** → *deci* – ‘one tenth’ + *mare* – ‘destruction’ → destruction of one-tenth/selective killing.
- Mean :** orig., to select by lot and destroy or kill a large part of
- Ex :** Wildlife in Africa has been mercilessly decimated by the poachers.
- Syn :** Annihilate; Massacre; Slaughter

DECLIVITY (n)

- Cue :** **DECLIVITY** → *de* – ‘down’ + *cliv* – ‘slope’
- Mean :** a downward slope
- Ex :** The hill people utilize land declivity for setting up water-mills.
- RW :** **Acclivity** (an upward slope of ground); **Climax**; **Declination**; **Declivitous** (fairly steep); **Disinclination**; **Proclivity** (inclination); **Recline**

DECOCT (v)

- Cue :** **DECOCT** → *de* – ‘down’ + *coct* – ‘cook’ i.e. to boil down
- Mean :** to extract the essence or flavor by boiling
- Ex :** The traditional Indian system of medicine utilizes herbal decoctions extensively.
- RW :** **Concoct** (to make by combining various ingredients; to devise, invent or plan)

DÉCOLLETÉ (adj)

- Cue :** **DÉCOLLETÉ** (French) → *de* + *collet* – ‘collar’
- Mean :** cut low so as to bare the neck and shoulders, as some dresses
- Ex :** Décolleté dresses are the fad of the times.
- RW :** **Decollate** (behead); **Décolletage** (the neckline across shoulders)

DEFLAGRATE (v)

- Cue :** **DEFLAGRATE** → *de* – intensive prefix ‘completely’ + *flag* – ‘to burn’
- Mean :** to burn rapidly with intense heat
- Ex :** Bush fires deflagrate very fast during hot and dry part of the year.
- RW :** **Conflagration** (large destructive fire); **Flagrant** (glaringly bad; notorious)

DEFOLIATE (v)

- Cue :** **DEFOLIATE** → *de* – ‘from, off’ + *folium* – ‘leaf’
- Mean :** to strip (a plant, tree, or forest) of leaves
- Ex :** By defoliating the crop, the farmer managed to control the spread of the disease to the rest of the field.
- Syn :** Denude
- RW :** **Deflower**; **Defoliant** (n - a chemical that causes leaves to fall, especially when used as a military tactic. Ex. Agent Orange was highly poisonous herbicide used as a defoliant by the Americans in Vietnam); **Deforest**; **Exfoliate** (to remove (a layer of bark or skin, for example) in flakes or scales; peel); **Foliage**

DEIFY (v)

- Cue :** **DEIFY** → *deus* – ‘God’ + *fac* – ‘to make’ → to make God
- Mean :** (1) to make a God of, worship as a God
- Ex :** In ancient times, some religions used to deify the sun.
- Mean :** (2) to glorify or adore in an extreme way, regard as a God; idolize
- Ex :** In South India, film actors are deified to such an extent that one actress even has a temple exclusively devoted to her.

Syn : Apotheosize; Consecrate; Idolize
RW : **Deictic** (proving directly, e.g. deictic logic); **Dei – gratia** (by the grace of God); **Deism** (belief in the existence of God); **Deist** (believer); **Deity**; **Factitious**; **Factory**

DEIGN (n)

Cue : **DEIGN** → **dign** – ‘to deem worthy’
Mean : to unwillingly condescend to do something below one’s dignity
Ex : At last, the company management deigned to invite the union leaders for discussion.
Syn : Descend; Stoop; Vouchsafe
RW : **Dainty**; **Dignitary**; **Disdain**

DÉJÀ VU (n)

Cue : French expression meaning ‘already seen’
Mean : (1) already seen, unoriginal
 (2) illusion of having already experienced
Ex : Most of the Hindi movies fill me with déjà vu because the storyline is repetitive.
RW : **Deja entendu** (already heard, say, music); **Deja lu** (already read); **Promnesia** (from previous memory)

DELECTABLE (adj)

Cue : **DELECTABLE** → **delec** – ‘delight’
Mean : delightful, delicious
Ex : The delectable performance by the child artist enthralled the audience.
Syn : Appetizing; Delicious; Exquisite; Luscious
RW : **Delicacy**; **Delectation** (pleasure)

DELIRIOUS (adj)

Cue : **de** – ‘off, away’ + **lira** – ‘line’ i.e. ‘be deranged,’ literally “be out of your track”
Mean : (1) mentally confused or excited (marked by restlessness, confused speech, and hallucinations), especially due to illness
 (2) wild with excitement
Ex : The patient is delirious with high fever. Call in the doctor immediately.
Syn : Deranged; Ecstatic; Frantic; Frenetic; Frenzied; Hallucinated
Ant : Sane; Sober
RW : **Delineation** (portrayal, tracing of outline); **Delinquent** (derelict, wayward); **Deliquesce** (to become liquid by absorbing moisture); **Delirium** (a temporary state of extreme mental excitement, marked by restlessness, confused speech, and hallucinations: it sometimes occurs during a fever or in some forms of insanity)

DELUDE (v)

Cue : **DELUDE** → **de** – ‘down’ + **lud** – ‘to play’ → to mock / deceive
Mean : to make someone believe something that is not true; to deceive
Ex : Do not delude yourself by thinking that you are going to be promoted this year.
Syn : Beguile; Cozen; Deceive; Dupe; Mislead; Trick
RW : **Allusion**; **Delusion**; **Elude**; **Illusion**; **Ludicrous** (laughable, ridiculous); **Prelude** (introduction, preface)

DELUGE (v/n)

Cue : **DELUGE** → **de** – ‘away’ + **luge/luv** – ‘wash’
Mean : (1) a flood of water; a cloudburst

- Ex : When it rains heavily, the little stream can become a deluge and can destroy many homes.
 Mean : (2) an overwhelming, flood like rush of anything
 Ex : The Company was deluged with applications for the job.
 Syn : Glut; Inundation; Overabundance; Surfeit; Torrent
 RW : **Ablution; Ante – diluvian** (Occurring or belonging to the era before the Flood; extremely old and antiquated); **Lavatory** (wash – room)

DEMAGOGUE (n)

- Cue : **DE M A G O G U E** → **demos** – ‘people’ + **agogos** – ‘leader’
 Mean : (1) orig., a leader of the common people
 (2) a person who tries to stir up the people by appeals to emotion, prejudice, etc. in order to win them over quickly and so gain power
 Ex : A demagogue wins support by appealing to people’s emotions rather than by rational argument.
 Syn : Agitator; Rabble-rouser
 RW : **Democracy; Demogogy/Demogoguery** (the methods or practices of a demagogue); **Demotic** (pertaining to common people); **Endemic; Epidemic; Pandemic**

DEMUR (v)

- Cue : **DE M U R** → **mur** – ‘a pause, delay’
 Mean : to voice opposition; object
 Ex : Nobody dared demur when the boss shot down the proposal.
 Syn : Disagree; Dispute; Challenge
 RW : **Demurrage** (compensation for delay/ holding up)
 Note its difference from **demure** (modest, serious and quiet)

DENDROID (adj/ n)

- Cue : **DE N D R O I D** → **dendro** – ‘tree’
 Mean : branching off like a tree
 Ex : The veins and arteries are spread dendroid – like in human body.
 RW : **Dendriform** (treelike in form); **Dendrite** (branching figure like a shrub, tree or moss); **Dendritic** (branching form); **Dendrochronology** (study of annual growth rings of trees to determine age); **Dendrology** (botanical study of trees and shrubs); **Philodendron** (a plant that clings to trees)

DENIGRATE (v)

- Cue : **DE N I G R A T E** → **de** – ‘completely’ + **nigr** – ‘black’ → to blacken/ defame completely
 Mean : to defame/ deprecate
 Ex : It is mean to denigrate a person for the natural flaws in his physique.
 Syn : Asperse; Belittle; Blacken; Calumniate; Degrade; Malign; Traduce; Vilify
 RW : **Negate; Negro**

DEPONENT (adj/ n)

- Cue : **DE P O N E N T** → **de** – ‘down’ + **pon / pos** – ‘put, place’ → to lay down/ set down
 Mean : a person who testifies under oath, esp. one who makes a deposition, offering testimony
 Ex : The deponent could not withstand persistent cross – examination by the lawyer.
 Syn : Testifier; Witness
 RW : **Deposit; Deposition; Exponent; Position; Postpone; Prepone; Proponent**

DEPREDATION (n)

- Cue : **DE P R E D A T I O N** → **de** – ‘thoroughly’ + **predate** – ‘plunder’
 Mean : act of plundering, damage or devastation (often used in the plural)

- Ex :** (i) The foreign invaders of Delhi repeatedly engaged in depredation and orgy.
(ii) Hiroshima and Nagasaki have suffered the depredations of atom bomb.
(iii) Depredation of the environment is destroying many species each year.
- Syn :** Havoc; Marauding; Pillaging; Plunder; Ravaging; Ruination
- Ant :** Building; Construction; Creation; Restoration
- RW :** **Predator**

DERELICT (adj/n)

- Cue :** **DERELICT** → **de** – ‘thoroughly’ + **relinq** – ‘abandon / forsake’, originally, abandoning of vessels at sea
- Mean :** abandoned, negligent, abandoned property or forsaken person
- Ex :** (i) The derelict theatre is too broken down to be repaired.
(ii) He was placed under suspension for his derelict behavior.
- Syn :** Bereft; Deserted; Desolate; Forlorn; Forsaken; Lorn
- Ant :** Attended; Cherished; Kept up; Maintained; Prized
- RW :** **Dereliction** (failure in duty); **Relic**

DERIDE (v)

- Cue :** **DERIDE** → **de** – ‘down’ + **rid/ris** – ‘laugh/ mock’
- Mean :** to laugh at, mock at, treat scornfully
- Ex :** The city people often deride the innocence of the rural people.
- Syn :** Gibe; Jeer; Lampoon; Ridicule; Scoff; Sneer
- Ant :** Applaud; Commend; Praise
- RW :** **Derisive; Derisory; Riddle; Ridicule**

DERMATOLOGIST (n)

- Cue :** **DERMATOLOGIST** → **dermis** – ‘skin’ + **log** – ‘speech/ study’
- Mean :** one who studies and treats skin ailments
- Ex :** For every small skin problem, we need not rush to the dermatologist.
- RW :** **Dermatitis** (inflammation of the skin); **Dermatosis** (any disorder of the skin); **Epidermis** (the outermost layer of the skin in vertebrates, having no blood vessels and consisting of several layers of cells, covering the dermis); **Pachyderm** (any of certain large, thick-skinned, hoofed animals, as the elephant, rhinoceros, and hippopotamus)

DERNIER CRI (French)

- Cue :** **DERNIER CRI** → **dernier** – ‘last’ + **cri** – ‘cry’
- Mean :** the latest fashion, the last word
- Ex :** Discotheques are the dernier cri of the youth today.
- Syn :** Fad; In vogue; Rage
- RW :** **Dernier resort** (last resort)

DESOLATE (adj)

- Cue :** **DESOLATE** → **de** – ‘completely’ + **sole** – ‘lonely’
- Mean :** (1) lonely, left alone, a barren state
- Ex :** The kidnappers took the victim to a desolate building.
- Mean :** (2) to be overwhelmed with grief
- Ex :** She was desolated by the death of her husband.
- Syn :** Abandoned; Derelict; Deserted; Forlorn; Forsaken; Lorn
- Ant :** Crowded; Inhabited; Mobbed; Populated
- Syn :** Bereft; Despondent; Dolorous; Gloomy; Melancholy; Sombre; Wretched

Ant : Cheerful; Comforted; Happy
RW : **Desert; Solitary; Solitude**

DESPISE (v)

Cue : **DESPISE** → **de** – ‘down’ + **spic/spec** – ‘look’ → look down upon
Mean : to feel a strong dislike for someone or something because you think it is bad or worthless
Ex : Discrimination ought to be despised.
Syn : Abhor; Abominate; Contemn; Detest; Disdain; Loathe; Revile; Scorn; Vile
Ant : Admire; Appreciate; Cherish; Esteem; Praise
RW : **Conspicuous; Desplicable; Perspicacious; Suspicious**

DESPONDENCY (n)

Cue : **DESPONDENCY** → **de** – ‘down’ + **spond** – ‘promise’ → having no promise/ hope
Mean : loss of courage or hope; dejection
Ex : Don’t let failure fill you with despondency.
Syn : Despair; Desperation; Doldrums; Gloom; Melancholy
Ant : Delight; Joy
RW : **Respond**

DESULTORY (adj)

Cue : **DESULTORY** → **de** – ‘down/ from’ + **sal / sult** – ‘leap/ jump’
Mean : moving or jumping from one thing to another; disconnected
Ex : The previous session of Parliament carried on a dull and desultory conversation.
Syn : Aimless; Capricious; Disconnected; Discursive; Erratic; Irregular; Stray,
Ant : Methodical; Directed; Focused; Guided; Planned; Purposeful; Resolute; Systematic
RW : **Assault** (a violent attack, either physical or verbal); **Insult; Salient; Somersault** (an acrobatic stunt: often used figuratively, as of a complete reversal of opinion, sympathies, etc)

DÉTENTE (n)

Cue : French expression → **de** – ‘away’ + **tend/ tent/ tens** – ‘stretch’ → to loosen/ release
Mean : a lessening of tension or hostility, esp. between nations, as through treaties, trade agreements, etc
Ex : The detente between India and Pakistan augured well for the success of SAARC Summit.
Syn : Rapprochement
RW : **Contentious; Entente** (an understanding or agreement between nations); **Tendentious** (characterized by a deliberate tendency, advancing a definite point of view); **Tentative**

DETRACTION (n)

Cue : **DETRACTION** → **de** – ‘away’ + **tract** – ‘pull/ drag’ → to take or draw away
Mean : to take away, to make something less valuable or less deserving of admiration
Ex : (i) No writer of worth can brook the detraction of his creativity by the critics.
(ii) Her bad moods detract from her charm.
Syn : Calumny; Derogation
RW : **Attract; Contract; Protracted; Tractor**

DEVIOUS (adj)

Cue : **DEVIOUS** → **de** – ‘off, from’ + **via** – ‘road’ → out of the way
Mean : (1) not in a straight path; roundabout
Ex : to avoid the city centre, he took a devious route.
Mean : (2) not straightforward or frank; dishonest

Ex : His devious ways brought him into disrepute.
Syn : (1) Circuitous; Meandering; Roundabout; Tortuous; Winding
 (2) Crafty; Cunning; Diabolic; Furtive; Sly; Stealthy
RW : **Deviate; Via**

DEVOLVE (n)

Cue : **DEVOLVE** → **de** – ‘from/down’ + **volve** – ‘roll’
Mean : to roll down, to pass on to others
Ex : Under the system of Panchayati Raj, authority and responsibility is devolved to the lowest rung of elected representative.
Syn : Assign; Delegate
RW : **Devolution; Involve**

DEXTEROUS (adj)

Cue : **DEXTEROUS** → **dexter** – ‘right hand’
Mean : skilled in using one’s hands, body or mind
Ex : The dexterous plastic surgeon put the mutilated facial contours of the accident victim into original shape.
Syn : Adept; Adroit; Agile; Deft; Skillful
Ant : Clumsy; Gauche (n – gaucherie)
RW : **Ambidextrous**

DICTUM (n)

Cue : **DICTUM** → **dict** – ‘to say, pronounce’
Mean : an authoritative saying, statement or pronouncement
Ex : Students have to follow the dictums of the authorities.
RW : **Contradict; Dictation; Dictator; Diction** (style of speaking or writing); **Edict; Interdict; Predict; Verdict**

DIDACTIC (adj)

Cue : **DIDACTIC** → **dac/dens** – ‘teach/learn/wisdom’
Mean : (1) intended to teach, especially in a way that is too determined or eager, and often fixed and unwilling to change
 (2) intended to teach people a moral
Ex : Teachers must often moderate their didactic approach to make learning more exciting.
Syn : Academic; Pedantic
RW : **Indoctrinate; Prudence** (capable of exercising sound judgment in matters of one’s own interests)

DIFFIDENCE (n)

Cue : **DIFFIDENCE** → **dif** (prefix DIS3: used before f) – ‘away’ + **fid** – ‘trust’ → distrusting oneself
Mean : lack of self-confidence
Ex : Diffidence is sure to mar your chances of selection in the interview.
Syn : Hesitance; Reticence; Shyness; Timidity
Ant : Boldness; Confidence
RW : **Affidavit; Confidence; Fidelity; Fiduciary (trustee); Infidel**

DILETTANTE (n)

Cue : **DILETTANTE** → an amateur who is into something for delight /out of superficial interest
Mean : a dabbler in art, science or literature; not professional

Ex : A.R. Rehman has proved that he is not a dilettante.
Syn : Amateur; Tyro

DILUVIUM (n)

Cue : **DILUVIUM** → *di* – ‘away’ + *luv/lave* – ‘to wash’ → wash away
Mean : inundation or flood
Ex : The diluvium left the city submerged for days.
RW : **Antediluvian**; **Dilution**; **Diluvial** (pertaining to flood or deluge); **Divulge**; **Lavatory**

DINGY (adj)

Cue : **DINGY** → *relate to dung* → ‘dark, dull and stale like dung’
Mean : lacking brightness/cheer, dull
Ex : The dingy atmosphere at home was stifling for the extrovert boy.
Syn : **Dinghy** (a small boat carried on a ship)

DIPSOMANIA (n)

Cue : **DIPSOMANIA** → *dipsa* – ‘thirst’ + *mania* – ‘morbid thirst for alcohol’
Mean : an irresistible urge/craving for an intoxicating drink / alcohol
Ex : Dipsomania ruins your health, wealth and character.

DISCOMFIT (v)

Cue : Probably a corrupted form of *discomfort* → to confuse, confound, frighten and drive away
Mean : (1) disconcert (confuse)
 (2) frustrate the plans
 (3) defeat
Ex : The strategy will discomfit the competitor.
RW : **Discombobulate** (disconcert); **Discomfiture**; **Discommode** (to cause botheration); **Discompose** (upset the composure)

DISCORD (n)

Cue : **DISCORD** → *dis* – ‘apart’ + *cor* – ‘heart’
Mean : disagreement, disharmony, non-conformity
Ex : The discord between the two brothers ultimately led to their separation.
Syn : Dissonance; Strife
Ant : Agreement; Harmony
RW : **Accord**; **Concord**; **Cordial**

DISCRETE (adj)

Cue : **DISCRETE** → *dis* – used as an ‘intensifier’ + *cretus / cern* – ‘separate’
Mean : separated, distinct, detached
Ex : Brain is divided into two discrete hemispheres.
RW : **Criterion**; **Discreet** (prudent, discerning, judicious); **Discretion**

DISDAIN (n)

Cue : **DISDAIN** → *dis* + *deign/dign* – ‘worth’
Mean : treat with contempt, scorn
Ex : Don’t treat your rivals with disdain.
Ant : Deign; Dignified
RW : **Condign** (well deserved); **Dignified**

DISGORGE (v)

- Cue :** **DISGORGE** → **dis** + **gorge** – ‘throat / gullet’
Mean : (1) to force out through the throat, vomit
 (2) to force to give up
Ex : He disgorged the entire food when the plane took off.
Syn : Eject; Regurgitate; Throw up
RW : **Gorge** (throat, deep chasm, canyon); **Gorgeous** (elegant – but originally jewelry adorning the neck); **Gurgle**

DISINGENUOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **DISINGENUOUS** → **dis** + **in** + **gen** – ‘produce’
 Originally, not native, not indigenous; later ‘not with the virtues of natives’ i.e. *deceitful*
Mean : crafty, lacking in candor, not straight forward
Ex : Women often encounter disingenuous people in the film world.
Ant : Candid; Frank; Naïve; Sincere
RW : **Congenital; Generous; Genetics; Genial**

DISORIENT (v)

- Cue :** **DISORIENT** → **dis** – ‘away’ + **orient** – ‘east /earliest’ → to turn away from the east
Mean : to cause to lose one’s perception, bearings
Ex : The accident victim did not suffer serious injury, but looked dazed and disoriented.
Syn : Befuddle; Confound; Confuse; Disconcert; Perplex
RW : **Orientation**

DISPARAGE (v)

- Cue :** **DISPARAGE** → **dis** + **parage** – ‘rank/parity’
Mean : to lower in esteem by insinuation / belittle
Ex : It is not uncommon to see people disparaging rivals.
Syn : Discredit; Underrate
Ant : Extol; Magnify; Praise
RW : **Apartheid; Disparate** (basically different/unrelated); **Disparity; Par; Peer**

DISPEL (v)

- Cue :** **DISPEL** → **dis** – ‘apart’ + **pel** – ‘drive / push’ → drive/push apart
Mean : cause to vanish, drive away
Ex : Education dispels ignorance.
RW : **Compel; Expel; Impel**

DISPENSATION (n)

- Cue :** **DISPENSATION** → **dis** - used as an ‘intensifier’ + **pend** – ‘weight / pay’ → grant weight / permission
Mean : (1) dispensing /distribution
 (2) a system or arrangement
Ex : (i) Dispensation of medicines.
 (ii) Feeling suffocated under the new dispensation of the company, some of the older and loyal employees felt obliged to quit.
RW : **Compensation; Depend; Indispensable; Pendant**

DISPERSION (n)

- Cue :** **DISPERSION** → **dis** – ‘apart’ + **sper** – ‘scatter’
Mean : scattering, diffusion
Ex : Standard deviation is a measure of dispersion of data from the centre.
Ant : Collection; Combination

RW : **Diaspora** (any scattering of people with a common origin, background, beliefs, etc); **Sparse**; **Sprout**

DISPORT (v)

Cue : **DISPORT** → **dis** – ‘away’ + **port** – ‘carry’ → to carry away (mind) from serious matters

Mean : amuse, frolic

Ex : People disport themselves in the New Year revelry.

RW : **Importune** (excessively persistent); **Purport**; **Sport** (diversion, amusement, play)

DISQUISITION (n)

Cue : **DISQUISITION** → **qu / quis** – ‘to seek/ask’ → originally a subject of investigation, later, a long speech

Mean : a formal discourse or treatise in which a subject is examined and discussed

Ex : The commission of inquiry delivered the operative part of its findings, but sought an extension for submission of detailed disquisition.

Syn : Dissertation

RW : **Acquisition**; **Exquisite**; **Inquisition**; **Perquisite**; **Requisite**

DISRUPT (v)

Cue : **DISRUPT** → **rupt** – ‘break/split’ → to cause to split or divide

Mean : to disturb orderly course and cause turmoil

Ex : Some of the back benchers were hell-bent to disrupt the meeting.

RW : **Interrupt**; **Rupture**

DISSECT (v)

Cue : **DISSECT** → **dis** – ‘apart’ + **sect** – ‘cut’

Mean : to cut apart

Ex : Frogs are used for dissection by medical students.

Syn : Anatomize; Dismember

RW : **Bisect**; **Insect**; **Intersection**; **Section**

DISSEMBLE (v)

Cue : **DISSEMBLE** → **dis** + **semble**

Mean : to conceal the true nature /character; to present a false appearance

Ex : In the face of sustained interrogation, the prisoner could not dissemble and broke down.

Syn : Camouflage; Disguise; Dissimulate; Feign; Pretend

RW : **Assemble**; **Resemblance**; **Resemble**

DISSOLUTE (adj)

Cue : **DISSOLUTE** → **solute** – ‘to loosen up’ → of loose conduct

Mean : loose in morals, conduct

Ex : The profligate and dissolute characterization in films has deleterious effect on young minds.

Syn : Debauched; Licentious; Profligate

RW : **Dissolution**; **Resolute**; **Solvent**

DISSONANCE (n)

Cue : **DISSONANCE** → **dis** – ‘apart’ + **sonus** – ‘sound’

Mean : lack of harmony or agreement

Ex : The dissonance of views between the two brothers led to the split up of the company.

Syn : Discord; Incongruity

RW : **Resonance**

DISTEND (v)

Cue : **D I S T E N D** → **dis** – ‘out/apart’ + **tend** – ‘stretch’ → to stretch out
Mean : to expand, swell out
Ex : The excision of appendicitis involves surgical removal of the distended end of large intestine.
Syn : Bloat
Ant : Contract; Shrink
RW : **Distend; Extend; Tensile; Tension**

DIVERT (v)

Cue : **D I V E R T** → **di + vert/vers** – ‘turn’
Mean : distract from a course, direction
Ex : Due to foggy conditions in winter, the air traffic often gets diverted.
Syn : Deflect; Detract
RW : **Advertisement** (that turns prospective clients towards your product); **Ambivert; Controversy; Divagate** (di + vag/wander → to wander / stray/digress in speech); **Diverse; Divorce** (legal separation from spouse); **Extrovert; Introvert**

DOCILE (adj)

Cue : **D O C I L E** → **doc** – ‘to teach’
Mean : readily taught, easy to manage, obedient, submissive
Ex : She is well-mannered and docile by nature.
Syn : Complaisant; Compliant; Malleable; Meek; Pliant
Ant : Obstinate
RW : **Decent; Docket** (agenda/ list of legal cases); **Doctrinaire** (dogmatic); **Doctrine; Document**

DOGGED (adj)

Cue : **D O G G E D** → ‘like a dog’ (not giving in readily, like a dog)
Mean : determined, stubborn, persistent, tenacious, diligent
Ex : He is working doggedly for his CAT examination.
RW : **Crabbed** (intricate ill-tempered like a crab); **Shrewish** (ill-tempered like a shrew); **Wicked** (from witch)

DOLOROUS (adj)

Cue : **D O L O R O U S** → **dolor** – ‘grief, suffering, sorrow’
Mean : very sad, mournful, gloomy
Ex : He put an end to his own dolorous existence by committing suicide.
Syn : Condolence; Doleful; Melancholy
RW : **Doldrums** (wretchedness); **Dole** (charity/ allowance to relieve suffering); **Doleful**

DOMINEER (v)

Cue : **D O M I N E E R** → **domin** – ‘lord’
Mean : to lord it over
Ex : The domineering attitude of the union leader was resented by the workmen.
RW : **Domain** (sphere of influence); **Dominare; Dominion** (self – governing colony)

DORMANT (adj)

Cue : **D O R M A N T** → **dorm** – ‘to sleep’
Mean : quiet, still, inactive, at rest
Ex : Mt. Etna has been lying dormant for a long time now, not spewing any lava.
Syn : Idle; Inactive
RW : **Dormer** (window set upright in a sloping roof – originally window of a sleeping room); **Dormitory** (community sleeping chamber)

NOTE (v)

- Mean :** (1) to be excessively (even foolishly) in love
(2) to be childish/ weak-minded out of age
- Ex :** People tend to dote on their grandchildren.
- RW :** **Anecdote; Antidote; Dotage** (foolish, affection, senility); **Dotard** (*n* – imbecile, doddering old person)

DOWER (n)

- Cue :** **D O W E R** → **dow** – ‘to be worthy/ giving’
- Mean :** the portion of a deceased husband’s property passed on to the widow
- Ex :** Brothers of the deceased tried to block transfer of dower to the name of the widow.
- RW :** **Doughty** (resolute); **Dowager** (a woman who holds dower, a lady of high social position); **Dowdy** (shabby, unfashionable esp. a woman); **Dowry; Endow**

DOXOLOGY (n)

- Cue :** **D O X O L O G Y** → **dox** – ‘glory/ praise’ + **logos** – ‘speaking’
- Mean :** a hymn of praise to God
- Ex :** Her repertoire of doxology is impressive.
- RW :** **Doxy** (doctrine/ religious views); **Orthodoxy**

DUBIOUS (adj)

- Cue :** **D U B I O U S** → **du** – ‘two’ → taken to be two
- Mean :** causing doubt, ambiguity, suspicion
- Ex :** The dubious credentials of some of the politicians will make interesting scoop material.
- RW :** **Doubt; Dub; Dubiety** (uncertainty); **Indubitable**

DULCET (adj)

- Cue :** **D U L C E T** → **dulcis** – ‘sweet’
- Mean :** sweet – sounding, melodious, pleasant to the ear
- Ex :** The urbanites are so used to shrill noise that they have almost forgotten the dulcet cooing of the birds.
- RW :** **Dulcify** (mollify, appease); **Dulcimer** (an old stringed musical instrument); **Dulcinea** (lady-love, sweetheart)

DURESS (n)

- Cue :** **D U R E S S** → **dure** – ‘hard/ severe’
- Mean :** coercion, intimidation, constraint
- Ex :** Signatures obtained under duress are rendered null and void in a court of law.
- Ant :** Free – will; Volition; Voluntary
- RW :** **Dour; Durable; Durance** (long confinement); **Endure**

DYSPEPSIA (n)

- Cue :** **D Y S P E P S I A** → **dys** – ‘impairment’ + **pepsis** – ‘digestion’
- Mean :** impaired digestion
- Dyslexia:** (*dys* + *lexis*) → impaired reading
- Dysphagia:** (*dys* + *phag* – to eat) → impaired swallowing
- Dysphasia:** impaired speaking/ understanding of words due to lesion in brain
- Dysphonia:** (*dys* + *phon/sound*) → impaired speech due to hoarseness
- Dysphoria:** a generalized feeling of ill-being; esp., an abnormal feeling of anxiety, discontent, physical discomfort
- Dyspnea:** *dys* (impaired) + *pneuma* (air/ breath) → shortness of breath
- Dysthymia:** *dys* + *thym* (spirit) → feeling of depression/ despondency
- Dystrophy:** faulty nutrition and hence impaired growth

'E'

ECCENTRIC (adj)

- Cue :** **ECCENTRIC** → **ec** – 'out of' + **centre**
Mean : off centre, deviating from the norm, as in conduct; out of the ordinary; odd
Ex : He's quite an eccentric with his collection of cats.
Syn : Crotchety; Erratic; Queer; Unconventional
RW : **Concentric** (having common centre); **Epicenter**

ECLECTIC (adj)

- Cue :** **ECLECTIC** → **ec** – 'out of' + **lectic** – 'choose'; originally a group of ancient philosophers who selected doctrines from every system
Mean : selecting from various sources, made up of material from various sources; wide-ranging
Ex : (i) He has an eclectic taste in art, ranging from Picasso to M. F. Hussein.
(ii) The eclectic collection of furniture in her new house was not matching.
RW : **Collect; Elect; Lecture; Predilection** (favorable inclination); **Select**

ECOLOGY (n)

- Cue :** **ECOLOGY** → **eco** – 'environment or habitat' + **logy** – 'study'
Mean : the scientific study of the relationships of living things to one another and to their environment
Ex : The forest fire has been an ecological disaster for the animal and bird life.
RW : **Ecosystem** (a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment)
Difference between **ecology** and **environment**: "Ecology" is the study of living things in

EDUCE (n)

- Cue :** **EDUCE** → **duce** – 'to lead or bring to'
Mean : to elicit or draw out (usu. from data), extract
Ex : The policemen are trained to educe truth out of criminals.
RW : **Adduce** (to cite as an example or means of proof in an argument); **Deduce; Reduce; Seduce**

EFFACE (v)

- Cue :** **EFFACE** → **ef** – prefix EX: used before f, 'out of' + **face** – 'underline'
Mean : to destroy the surface of, to erase
Ex : Hitler's attempts at effacement of the Jews finally proved futile.
Syn : Erase; Obliterate
RW : **Deface; Surface**

EFFEMINATE (adj)

- Cue :** **EFFEMINATE** → **ef** – 'out of' + **fem** – 'female' i.e. make a woman of
Remember it doesn't mean the same as feminine
Mean : having the qualities generally attributed to women, as weakness, timidity, delicacy, etc.; unmanly; not virile i.e. of a man or boy, like a woman
Ex : He has quite an effeminate voice for someone so large and brawny.
RW : **Feminine**

EFFETE (adj)

- Cue :** **EFFETE** → **ef** – 'out' + **fete** – 'fetus' – that has brought forth offspring, exhausted
Though derived from Latin **effetus**, applied to women only, its proper meaning today is 'exhausted'
Mean : weak or worn out, exhausted

Ex : After years of luxurious life, he has now become effete
Syn : Debilitated; Decadent; Enervated; Spent

EFFLUENT (n)

Cue : **EFFLUENT** → *ef* – ‘out’ + *flu* – ‘flow’ i.e. to flow out
Mean : something that flows out, especially liquid waste or sewage
Ex : The factory effluents have contaminated our rivers.
RW : **Affluent** (opposed to effluent, meaning wealthy, prosperous); **Fluent**

EFFLUVIUM (n)

Cue : **EFFLUVIUM** → *ef* – ‘out’ + *flu* – ‘flow’ i.e. flowing out
Mean : a real or supposed outflow in the form of a vapor or stream of invisible particles; noxious odor; exhalation
Ex : The effluvium of dried fish along Indian beaches causes many to throw up.
Syn : Emanation; Exhalation; Exhaust; Odor
RW : Note its difference from **effluent** (effluvium is related to smell or fumes)

EFFRONTERY (n)

Cue : **EFFRONTERY** → *ef* – ‘from’ + *front* – ‘frons’ – actually implies forehead i.e. putting forth the forehead, which is being bold, shameless
Mean : unashamed boldness; impudence
Ex : The effrontery of the junior staff was intolerable.
Syn : Audacity; Impudence; Insolence
Ant : Decency; Decorum; Deference; Etiquette; Propriety
RW : **Affront; Confront**

EFFUSIVE (adj)

Cue : **EFFUSIVE** → *ef* – ‘out’ + *fus* – *fus* is not related to fusion or joining, instead it implies *fundere* – ‘pour’ i.e. pour forth, spread abroad
Mean : expressing excessive emotion in an unrestrained manner; too demonstrative
Ex : I was embarrassed by their effusive thanks for my small gift.
RW : **Confusion; Diffusion; Effusion**

EGREGIOUS (adj)

Cue : **EGREGIOUS** → *e* – ‘out’ + *greg* – ‘flock / herd’ → out of the herd
Mean : outstanding for undesirable qualities; remarkably bad; flagrant
Ex : His egregious behaviour brought him into disrepute.
RW : **Gregarious** (living in herds or flocks; fond of the company of others; sociable)

EGRESS (n)

Cue : **EGRESS** → *e* – ‘out’ + *gress/grad* – ‘step, go’ i.e. go out
Mean : exit; the act of going out or forth; emergence
Ex : The egress of the cinema hall is narrow and not well lit.
RW : **Regression** (going back; return; movement backward); **Retrogression** (any retrogressing)

ELEVATE (v)

Cue : **ELEVATE** → *e* – ‘out’ + *lev* – ‘to make light, lift’ i.e. to raise
Mean : to lift, raise
Ex : He was elevated to the rank of Major General.
Syn : Ennoble; Exalt

Ant : Depress; Pull down; Suppress
RW : **Alleviate** (to make less hard to bear; lighten or relieve); **Levee** (an embankment built alongside a river to prevent high water from flooding bordering land); **Lever**; **Levitate**

ELLIPSIS (n)

Cue : **ellipse** (a regular, oval-shaped figure)
Mean : the leaving out of a word or words from a sentence, usually represented by three dots in succession (...)
Ex : We use ellipses all the time even if symbolically, such as using 'if possible' for 'if it is possible'.
RW : **Ellipse** (oval shaped); **Ellipses** (plural); **Elliptical** (having the form of an ellipse; marked by omissions in speech or writing)

ELOQUENT (adj)

Cue : **E L O Q U E N T** → **e** – 'out' + **loqui** – 'to speak' i.e. to speak out, utter
Mean : (1) of speech, writing: fluent and persuasive i.e. ability to speak well
Ex : The defense lawyer made an eloquent plea for his client's acquittal.
Mean : (2) visibly or vividly expressive
Ex : The pictures were an eloquent reminder of the power of the tsunami disaster.
Syn : Fluency; Glibness; Volubility
Ant : Inarticulate; Misrepresented; Mumbled; Tongue-tied; Unclear; Unintelligible
RW : **Colloquial** (designating or of the words, phrases and idioms characteristic of informal speech and writing and does not indicate substandard or illiterate usage); **Loquacious**

ELUCIDATE (v)

Cue : **E L U C I D A T E** → **luc** – 'light / clear'
Mean : to throw light upon, to make clear
Ex : The teacher elucidated the theory in such a way that the concept became clear.
Ant : Obfuscate
RW : **Lucid** (transparent; clear to the mind); **Translucent**

EMACIATE (v)

Cue : **E M A C I A T E** → **e** – 'out' + **macies** – 'lean' i.e. made very thin and weak
Mean : thin and wasted especially from hunger or illness
Ex : A long serious illness has left her emaciated. But she has started putting on weight now.
Syn : Atrophied; Degenerated
Ant : Invigorated; Stout
RW : **Emasculate** (take away masculinity, to effeminate; to take away all the strength from)

EMBARGO (v)

Cue : **E M B A R G O** → **bar** – 'restriction'
Mean : an official or government order that forbids trade, movement of ships, etc i.e. a ban on commerce or other activity
Ex : The embargo on oil supplies put several countries in a fix.
Syn : Impediment; Prohibition
Ant : Allow; Permit
RW : **Disembark**; **Embark** (to put or go on board a ship or an aircraft; to set out on a new venture)

EMOLLIENT (n)

Cue : **E M O L L I E N T** → **mollis** – 'soften'
Mean : (1) making soft and supple

(2) having soothing qualities
 Ex : Apply an emollient to the sores.
 Syn : Balm; Liniment; Salve; Unguent
 Ant : Callous; Frangible; Irritant
 RW : **Mollify**

EMPATHY (n)

Cue : **EMPATHY** → **em** – 'in' + **pathos** – 'feeling' i.e. identification with other's feeling
 Mean : the ability to imagine how another person is feeling and so understand his or her emotions
 Ex : To be able to empathize with the client results into quality service.
 RW : **Apathy; Antipathy; Sympathy**

ENAMOUR (v)

Cue : **ENAMOUR** → **amour** – 'love'
 Mean : to inflame with love / charm
 Ex : The amorous person felt enamoured with every pretty girl.
 RW : **Amateur; Amiable; Amicable**

ENCIPHER (v)

Cue : **ENCIPHER** → **cipher** – 'a number, a code'
 Mean : to translate a message into code
 Ex : The sensitive information is enciphered before transmission.
 Ant : Decipher
 RW : **Decipher; Encapsulate; Encode**

ENCUMBER (v)

Cue : **ENCUMBER** → **en** – 'in' + **cumb** – 'obstruction, barrier' i.e. to hold back motion or action
 Mean : (1) to hold back the motion or action of, as with a burden; hinder
 (2) to load or weigh down, as with claims, debts, etc
 Ex : The company is encumbered with heavy liabilities, which is the reason for its poor performance.
 Syn : Burden; Hamper; Hinder; Obstruct
 Ant : Disburden; Unload
 RW : **Cumbersome; Incumbent; Succumb**

ENCYCLOPEDIA (n)

Cue : **ENCYCLOPEDIA** → **en** – 'in' + **cyclos** – 'circle' + **pedia** – 'education, child-rearing'
 → training in a circle, which is implied as 'general education'
 Mean : a book or set of books giving information on all or many branches of knowledge, generally in articles alphabetically arranged
 Ex : Her encyclopedic knowledge makes her excellent at quizzes.
 Syn : Almanac
 RW : **Pedagogue** (a teacher; specif. a pedantic, dogmatic teacher); **Pedantic** (a narrow-minded teacher who insists on exact adherence to a set of arbitrary rules); **Pediatrics**

ENDEMIC (adj)

Cue : **ENDEMIC** → **en** – 'in' + **dem** – 'people' i.e. native, indigenous
 Mean : (1) native to a particular country or region: said of plants, animals and sometimes customs
 (2) constantly present in a particular region: said of a disease that is generally under control
 Ex : (i) The endemic disease has put the local authorities on high alert.
 (ii) The problem of pollution is endemic in an industrial city.

Ant : Pandemic
RW : **Pandemic** (existing in the form of a widespread epidemic that affects people in many different countries. AIDS is currently considered to be pandemic) and **epidemic** (refers to a disease that spreads rapidly among many people and then dies out)

ENERVATE (v)

Cue : **ENERVATE** → **e** – ‘out’ + **nerve** – ‘nerveless, weak’
 Don't misunderstand it to mean either ‘to energise, invigorate’ or ‘to irritate’
Mean : to deprive of nerve, vitality or strength
Ex : I was enervated by long illness.
Syn : Debilitate; Enfeeble; Weaken
Ant : Animate; Invigorate; Strengthen
RW : **Energize**

ENIGMA (n)

Cue : **Enigma** is to speak in riddles
Mean : anything that is difficult to understand; mystery
Ex : I've known her since childhood, but she remains an enigma to me.
Syn : Conundrum; Puzzle; Riddle; Sphinx
RW : **Enigmatic**

ENNUI (n)

Cue : **ENNUI** → rhyme it with ‘**annoy**’ i.e. weariness due to prolonged use
Mean : weariness and dissatisfaction resulting from inactivity or lack of interest; boredom
Ex : The ennui of a long cruise is relieved by shipboard activities.
Syn : Depression; Languidness; Lassitude; Listlessness; Melancholy; Tedium
Ant : Excitement; Interest; Stimulation

ENSANGUINE (v)

Cue : **ENSANGUINE** → **en** – ‘make’ + **sanguine** – ‘blood’
Mean : to stain with blood; make bloody
Ex : The Victim's ensanguined body was found in the kitchen.
RW : **Sanguinary** (bloody); **Sanguine** (cheerful and confident, hopeful)

ENSCONCE (v)

Cue : **en (in) + conc (hide/conceal)**
Mean : to settle or establish yourself in a comfortable or secure place
Ex : He ensconced himself in an armchair.

ENTENTE (n)

Cue : **ENTENTE** → **en** – ‘in, at’ + **tent/tend** – ‘to stretch’ → to stretch out for, aim at
Mean : an understanding or agreement, as between nations; a mutual agreement
Ex : The recent entente between India and Pakistan still holds strong
Syn : Rapprochement
Ant : Détente
RW : **Détente** (a lessening of tension or hostility, esp. between nations); **Intend; Intent**

ENTOMOLOGY (n)

Cue : **ENTOMOLOGY** → **entomo** – ‘insects’ + **logy** – ‘study’
Mean : study of insects

- Ex* : Entomology is part of graduate course in biology.
RW : Don't confuse it with **etymology** (the study of the history or derivation of words)

ENUMERATE (v)

- Cue* : **ENUMERATE** → numeral / counting
Mean : to name one by one, list; to count
Ex : The teacher enumerated the benefits of consistent study.
RW : **Innumerable; Supernumerary**

ENUNCIATE (v)

- Cue* : **ENUNCIATE** → rhyme **enuncia** with 'pronounce' and 'announce'
Mean : (1) to pronounce words or parts of words clearly
Ex : In elocution classes, we are taught to enunciate with each syllable of the word carefully.
Mean : (2) to state and explain a plan or principle clearly or formally
Ex : The government could not enunciate its economic policy.
Syn : (1) Articulate; Pronounce
 (2) Announce; Proclaim
Ant : Disclaim; Inarticulate; Mispronounce; Mumble
RW : **Denunciation; Renunciation**

EPICURE (n)

- Cue* : From **Epicurus** - Gr. philosopher: founder of the Epicurean school, which held that the goal of man should be a life characterized by serenity of mind and the enjoyment of moderate pleasure
Mean : a person who takes a special interest in and gets great pleasure from good food and drink
Ex : He's a real epicure who knows all the best restaurants in town.
Syn : Bon vivant; Connoisseur; Gastronome; Gourmand; Gourmet
RW : **Epic** (a long literary work, full of brave action and excitement); **Epigram** (short, witty composition); **Epilogue** (concluding section of a work); **Epitaph** (inscription in memory, on a grave)

EQUANIMITY (n)

- Cue* : **EQUANIMITY** → **equi** – 'even' + **anim** – 'mind / spirit' i.e. evenness of mind and temper
Mean : the quality of remaining calm and undisturbed; evenness of mind or temper; composure
Ex : The Finance Minister's equanimity in the face of opposition tirade was creditable.
Syn : Composure; Poise; Serenity
Ant : Agitation; Excitability
RW : **Equable** (tranquil/ steady); **Equilibrium**; **Equinox** (the time when days and nights are equal); **Equity**; **Equivocal** (ambiguous)

ERGONOMICS (n)

- Cue* : **ERGONOMICS** → **ergo** – 'work' + **nomos** – 'systematized knowledge'
Mean : the scientific study of people and their working conditions, especially done in order to improve effectiveness
Ex : Ergonomically designed chair has relieved me of my backache.
RW : **Ergophobia** (fear of work)

ERRANT (adj)

- Cue* : **ERRANT** → **err** – 'wander / go astray'
Mean : going astray esp. doing wrong
Ex : The errant bank official should be brought to book.
Syn : Rambling; Straying

Ant : Steady; Unwavering
RW : **Aberrant** (turning away from what is right, true); **Errand** (a trip to carry a message or do a definite thing, often esp. for someone else); **Errata** (a list of errors with their corrections, inserted on a separate page (*errata page*) of a published work); **Erratic** (strange); **Erroneous**; **Error**

ERUDITE (adj)

Cue : **ERUDITE** → **e** – ‘not’ + **rudis** – ‘rude’ i.e. one who is refined, not rude
Mean : having deep and extensive knowledge, scholarly, educated
Ex : The erudite discourses of J. Krishnamurthy are not easily comprehensible.
Syn : Learned; Scholastic
Ant : Ignorant; Unlettered
RW : **Rude**; **Rudimentary**

ESOTERIC (adj)

Cue : **ESOTERIC** → **eso** – ‘inner, within’ → refers to anything that is inner and occult. *Esoteric* originally referred to the secret (vs public) teachings of Greek philosophers. Esoteric today refers to anything that is inner
Mean : that is complex and difficult to grasp except by the fewer, more perceptive or aware
Ex : The esoteric concept of existentialism is not understood by ordinary beings.
Syn : Abstruse; Arcane; Recondite
Ant : Exoteric (understood by all)

ETHNOLOGY (n)

Cue : **ETHNOLOGY** → **ethno** – ‘race / nation’ + **logy** – ‘study’
Mean : the branch of anthropology that studies comparatively the cultures of contemporary or recent, societies or language groups
Ex : Archaeology and ethnology have lots in common.
Syn : Cultural anthropology; Study of customs; Study of mores
RW : **Ethnicity**; **Ethnocentrism** (the emotional attitude that one’s own ethnic group, nation, or culture is superior); **Ethos** (beliefs of a group)

ETYMOLOGY (n)

Cue : **ETYMOLOGY** → **etymos** – ‘true, real’ + **logy** – ‘a word, study’ i.e. the true sense of a word
Mean : the study of the origin and history of words, or a study of this type relating to one particular word
Ex : Etymology is related to lexicology.
RW : **Etiology/Aetiology** (the philosophical study of causation; study of the causes of diseases)

EULOGY (n)

Cue : **EULOGY** → **eu** – ‘good, well’ + **logy** – ‘speaking’ i.e. to speak well of
Mean : a speech or piece of writing praising a person or thing, especially someone who has recently died or stopped working
Ex : (i) Shakespeare’s eulogy for his beloved is expressed in his sonnets.
(ii) No one had imagined that the tone of his speech would be eulogistic.
Syn : Commendation; Glorification; Laudation; Panegyric
Ant : Denunciation; Malignancy
RW : **Eugenics** (the movement devoted to improving the human species through the control of hereditary factors in mating); **Euphoria** (exaggerated feeling of happiness); **Eureka** (expression of triumph/discovery “I found it”); **Eurhythmics** (art of harmonious body rhythm); **Euthanasia** (mercy killing)

EUPHEMISM (n)

- Cue :** **EUPHEMISM** → **eu** – ‘good’ + **phem** – ‘to say, speak’ i.e. to use words of good omen
- Mean :** a mild inoffensive word or phrase used instead of one thought to be harsh or embarrassing
- Ex :** (i) ‘Remains’ is a euphemism for ‘corpse’.
(ii) It is a euphemism to say to an employee ‘I am letting you go’ rather than to say ‘you’re fired’.

EVANESCENT (adj)

- Cue :** **E V A N E S C E N T** → **vanes** – ‘vanish’ + **escent** – starting to be, being or becoming’ i.e. vanishing, tending to fade from sight
- Mean :** lasting for only a short time, then disappearing quickly and being forgotten
- Ex :** Material pleasures are evanescent.
- Syn :** Ephemeral; Fleeting; Fugacious; Transient
- Ant :** Longevity
- RW :** **Adolescent; Convalescent; Incandescent** (glowing with heat); **Obsolescent; Reminiscent**

EVANGELIST (n)

- Cue :** **E V A N G E L I S T** → **angel** – ‘Christian mythological character’
- Mean :** a person who tries to persuade people to become Christians, often by traveling around and organizing religious meetings
- Ex :** Some Christian evangelists have rendered yeoman service to the tribals.
- Syn :** Missionary; Preacher; Revivalist; Televangelist
- RW :** **Evangelism** (a preaching of, or zealous effort to spread the gospel); **Evangelize** (to try to persuade people to become Christians)

EVOCATIVE (adj)

- Cue :** **E V O C A T I V E** → **e** – ‘out’ + **voc/vok** – ‘to call, summon’
- Mean :** that which calls out or brings up emotions and/or memories
- Ex :** For me, this sound is evocative of the sea.
- Syn :** Conjure; Invoke; Summon
- RW :** **Advocate; Avocation** (something done in addition to a principal vocation); **Equivocate; Evoke; Invoke; Vocabulary; Vociferous**

EXACERBATE (v)

- Cue :** **E X A C E R B A T E** → **ex** – ‘thoroughly’ + **acer** – ‘sharp / bitter’
- Mean :** (1) to make more intense or sharp; aggravate (disease, pain, annoyance, etc)
(2) to exasperate; annoy; irritate
- Ex :** The police action might exacerbate the already tense situation.
- Syn :** Aggravate; Intensify; Worsen
- RW :** **Acerbic** (sour/ harsh); **Acrid** (biting taste or smell); **Acrimonious** (bitter)

EXCISION (v)

- Cue :** **E X C I S I O N** → **ex** – ‘out’ + **cis** – ‘cut’ i.e. cut out, removed
- Mean :** to remove, especially by cutting
- Ex :** (i) The dry branches of the plant need excision.
(ii) During a three-hour operation, the tumor was excised from the patient's brain.
- RW :** **Abscission; Decision; Excise** (government tax on certain goods produced inside a country); **Exorcise** (to seek to expel an evil spirit out of); **Incision**

EXCORIATE (v)

- Cue :** **EXCORIATE** → **ex** – ‘out of / off’ + **corium** – ‘skin’ i.e. strip the skin from
Figurative sense would be to ‘**denounce, censure**’
- Mean :** (1) criticize severely, express a very bad opinion of a book, play
- Ex :** Critics excoriated the actor for his bad performance in the film.
- Mean :** (2) to strip, scratch or rub off the skin of
- Ex :** Poachers hunt down snakes and mercilessly excoriate them to manufacture belts and purses.
- Syn :** (1) Condemn; Criticize; Flay
(2) Abrade; Chafe; Flay
- Ant :** Acclaim; Commend; Eulogize; Extol; Laud; Praise

EXCRUCIATE (v)

- Cue :** **EXCRUCIATE** → **ex** – ‘thoroughly’ + **crucify** – related with ‘cross / suffering’ i.e. to torture, crucify
- Mean :** (1) to cause intense bodily pain to; torture
(2) to subject to mental anguish; torment
- Ex :** The excruciating tooth ache is unbearable.
- RW :** **Crucification**

EX GRATIA (Latin)

- Cue :** **EX GRATIA** → Latin expression - **ex** – ‘out of’ + **gratis** – ‘for sake of’
- Mean :** as an act of grace, favour
- Ex :** The ex gratia payments do not absolve the govt. of the responsibility for the damages/losses incurred.
- RW :** **Exempli gratia; Grace; Gratification**

EXHUME (v)

- Cue :** **EXHUME** → **ex** – ‘out’ + **humus** – ‘earth / soil’
- Mean :** (1) to dig out of the earth; disinter
- Ex :** The police exhumed the body of the dead from the grave.
- Mean :** (2) to bring to light; disclose; reveal
- Ex :** The intricacies of the bank scam are yet to be exhumed.
- Syn :** Disentombed; Disinter; Excavate; Expose; Unearth
- Ant :** Bury; Inhume; Inter
- RW :** **Humble; Humiliate; Inhume**

EXPOUND (v)

- Cue :** **EXPOUND** → **ex** – ‘out’ + **pound** – ‘to put’ i.e. to put forth
- Mean :** to elaborate, carry forth
- Ex :** Plato expounded the philosophy of Socrates.
- Syn :** Delineate; Elucidate; Explicate
- RW :** **Compound; Propound**

EXSCIND (v)

- Cue :** **EXSCIND** → **ex** – ‘out’ + **scind** – ‘to cut off’
- Mean :** to cut off, excise, extirpate
- Ex :** The doctors had to exscind his limb to save his life.
- RW :** **Abscind; Abscission; Scissors**

EXTEMPORANEOUS (adj)

- Cue :** EXTEMPORANEOUS → **ex** – ‘out’ + **tempore** – ‘time’ i.e. offhand, in accordance with (the needs of) the moment
- Mean :** without planning or preparation; unrehearsed
- Ex :** (i) His extemporaneous comments brought forth the wrath of the boss.
(ii) When you lecture extempore, you do so without notes.
- Syn :** Ad lib; Impromptu; Spontaneous; Unexpectedly; Unpremeditated

EXTENUATING (adj)

- Cue :** EXTENUATING → **ex** – ‘out’ + **ten** – ‘stretch/ make thin’ i.e. to lessen
- Mean :** to lessen the seriousness of (an offense, guilt, etc.) by giving excuses or serving as an excuse
- Ex :** The extenuating circumstances of the crime helped him secure the bail.
- RW :** **Attenuating**

EXTORT (v)

- Cue :** EXTORT → **ex** – ‘out’ + **tort** – ‘twist’ i.e. to twist or turn out
- Mean :** to secure/obtain by threat and/or misuse of authority
- Ex :** The kidnapping mafia has turned extortion into an industry.
- Syn :** Extract; Wrench; Wrest
- RW :** **Distort; Retort**

EXTRAVAGANT (adj)

- Cue :** EXTRAVAGANT → **extra** – ‘beyond’ + **vagant** – ‘wander, roam’ i.e. wander outside or beyond bounds
- Mean :** going beyond reasonable limits; excessive or unrestrained
- Ex :** His extravagant ways have put the entire family into financial difficulties.
- RW :** **Exorbitant** (going beyond what is reasonable, just, proper, usual; excessive, said esp. of charges, prices, etc); **Extravaganza; Vagaries** (unexpected and uncontrollable events or changes which have an influence on a situation. **Ex :** The success of the event will be determined by the vagaries of the weather)