

"A"

ABACK Adv.

backwards; hence *taken aback* means taken by surprise

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

ABASE V.

to lower, to degrade, to humiliate

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

ABASH V.

to strike with shame, to embarrass

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

ABATE V.

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

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

ABANDON N.

total lack of inhibition

V. to leave, give up

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

ABDICATE

to give up a position, right, or power

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

ABDUCT V. ABDUCTION N.

to forcefully take away

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

ABERRATION

something different from the usual

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

ABET V.

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

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

ABEYANCE

temporary suppression or suspension

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

ABHOR

to loathe, detest

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

ABJECT

miserable, pitiful

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

ABJURE

to reject, abandon formally

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

ABLUTION

act of cleansing

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

ABNEGATION N.

renunciation, self-sacrifice

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

ABORTIVE

stopped before completion, failed attempt

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

ABOLISH V.

to put an end to, to do away with

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

ABOMINABLE Adj. ABOMINATE V.

Detestable, extremely unpleasant, very bad

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

ABORT V.

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

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

ABRASIVE Adj. ABRASION N. ABRADE V.

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

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

ABRIDGE

to condense, shorten

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

ABROGATE

to put an end to, abolish by authority

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

ABSCOND

to depart secretly

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

ABSOLVE

to forgive, free from blame

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

ABSCESS N.

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

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

ABSTEMIOUS Adj.

sparing in food, drink or enjoyment, moderate, temperate

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

ABSTAIN V., abstinence N.

to refrain deliberately

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

ABSTRACT

theoretical, summation

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

ABSTRUSE

difficult to understand

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

ABUNDANT Adj.

ample, copious, luxuriant, overflowing

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

ABUT V.

to end, to touch, to border upon, adjoin

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

ACCEDE

to express approval, agree to

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

ACCENT N.

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

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

ACCESSIBLE

attainable, available, approachable

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

ACCESSORY

attachment, ornament, accomplice, partner

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

ACCLAIM N., V.

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

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

ACCOMMODATE V. **ACCOMMODATION** N.

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

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

ACCOLADE

praise, distinction

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

ACCOMPLICE N.

conspirator, companion, coworker, associate in a crime

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

ACCORDANCE Adj.

conformity, agreement, concurrence

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

ACOST

to approach and speak to someone

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

ACCOUTREMENT N.

dress, equipment, habiliment, paraphernalia

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

ACCRETION

growth in size or increase in amount

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

ACCRUE

to accumulate, grow by additions

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

ACE Adj.

of highest quality, outstanding

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

ACERBIC Adj. **ACERBITY** N.

bitter and sour, corrosive

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

ACME

highest point, summit

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

ACOLYTE N.

an assistant, a faithful follower

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

ACOUSTIC Adj. **ACOUSTICS** pl (N.)

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

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

ACQUISITION N.

possession, property, addition, gain, prize

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

ACQUIESCE

to agree, comply quietly

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

ACQUITTAL

release from blame

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

ACRIMONY

bitterness, animosity

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

ACRID Adj.

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

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

ACRIMONIOUS Adj. ACRIMONY N.

full of bitterness in words or manner

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

ACROBAT N.

gymnast, tumbler

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

ACRONYM N.

a word formed from the initial letters of other words

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

ACTUARY N. ACTUARIAL Adj.

A statistician who computes insurance risks and premiums.

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

ACTUATE V.

to put something into action, to start something, motivate

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

ACUITY N.

keenness of perception; sharpness

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

ACUMEN

sharpness of insight

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

ACUTE

sharp, pointed, severe

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

ADAGE

old saying or proverb

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

Mini Revision Test

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

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

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

ADAMANT

uncompromising, unyielding

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

ADAPT

to accommodate, adjust

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

ADDLE V.

become rotten, confuse

- ✗ She addled everyone with her plans.

ADDUCE V.

to quote examples in a discussion or a debate

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

ADEPT Adj.

highly skilled, consummate, proficient, expert at

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

ADHERE

to cling to or follow without deviation

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

ADIEU N.

a farewell

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

ADIPOSE Adj.

of or related to animal fat

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

ADJOURN V.

to postpone, put off to another date

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

ADJUDICATE V. ADJUDICATION N.

to act as a judge or determiner

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

ADJUNCT N.

something or someone attached to but holding a subordinate position

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

ADJURE V.

to charge on oath or to command solemnly under

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

ADMONISH

to caution or reprimand

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

ADORE V. ADORABLE Adj. ADORATION N.

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

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

ADORN V.

decorate, beautify, garnish,

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

ADROIT

skillful, accomplished, highly competent

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

ADULATION

high praise

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

ADULTERATE

to corrupt or make impure

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

ADVANTAGEOUS

favourable, useful

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

ADVENTITIOUS Adj.

arising or occurring sporadically or in other than usual location

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

ADVERSE

unfavorable, unlucky, harmful

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

ADVERSARY N.

opponent, hostile rival, enemy

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

AEGIS N.

patronage, support, shield, defence

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

AERATOR, AERATION N.

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

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

AERIAL

having to do with the air

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

AERODYNAMIC

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

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

AESTHETIC

pertaining to beauty or art

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

AFFABLE

friendly, easy to approach

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

AFFECT V.

to act on, to influence, to move

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

AFFECTATION N.

an artificial show of manners, haughtiness, pretence, peculiarity

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

AFFINITY

fondness, liking, similarity

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

AFFLICTION N.

the cause of persistent pain or distress; great suffering

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

AFFLUENT

rich, abundant

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

AFFRONT

personal offence, insult

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

AFICIONADO N.

an ardent follower, an amateur, a devotee

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

AFTERMATH N.

consequence, result, events following

- 🔗 Thousands perished in the aftermath of the drought.

AGAPE Adj.

wide open, open-mouthed

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

AGENDA

plan, schedule

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

AGGLOMERATION N.

collection, heap

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

AGGRANDISE V. AGGRANDISEMENT N.

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

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

AGGRAVATE V.

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

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

AGGREGATE

collective mass or sum, total

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

AGILE

well-coordinated, nimble

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

AGOG Adj.

full of intense interest or excitement

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

AGHAST Adj.

stupefied with horror, horrified, dumbfounded

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

AGITATE V. AGITATION N.

to stir violently, excite, perturb, disturb

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

AGNOSTIC

one who doubts that God exists

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

AGONY N.

affliction, pain

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

AGRARIAN

related to farming or rural matters

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

AIDE N.

an assistant

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

AISLE (IL) N.

a passage between rows of seats, pathway

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

AJAR Adj., Adv.

partly open, unshut

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

AKIMBO Adj.

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

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

AKIN Adj.

by kin, affiliated, analogous, alike

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

ALACRITY

cheerful willingness, eagerness, speed

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

ALBEIT Conj.

although, even if

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

ALBINO N.

a person/animal with abnormally white skin and pink pupils

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

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

ALCHEMY N.

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

☑ **Syn.** conversion, sorcery

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

ALEXIA N.

loss of the power to read; word-blindness

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

ALFRESCO Adj.

in the open air, outdoors

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

★ **Ant.** inside, interior, enclosed

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

ALGORITHM

mechanical problem-solving procedure

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

ALIAS

assumed name

☑ **Syn.** pseudonym, incognito

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

ALIENATE V.

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

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

★ **Ant.** engage, include, contain

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

ALIGNED

precisely adjusted, committed to one side

☑ **Syn.** line up, ally

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

ALIMONY N.

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

☑ **Syn.** maintenance, child support

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

ALLAY

to lessen, ease, or soothe

☑ **Syn.** alleviate, mollify

★ **Ant.** increase, intensify

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

ALLEGE V. ALLEGATION N.

to assert as true but without proof,

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

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

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

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

ALLEGIANCE N.

total devotion or faithfulness, loyalty

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

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

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

ALLEGORY

parable, story with a hidden meaning

☑ **Syn.** myth, apologue

★ **Ant.** fact, history

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

ALLEVIATE V.

to reduce the burden of, to mitigate

☑ **Syn.** relieve, assuage, moderate

★ **Ant.** heighten, accentuate

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

ALLEY N.

a passage, a narrow lane, a corridor

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

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

ALLIGATOR N.

a large amphibious reptile related to crocodiles

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

ALLITERATION

repetition of the initial sounds of words

☒ The alliteration made the poem sound interesting.

ALLOCATION

allowance, portion, share

☑ **Syn.** allotment, quota

★ **Ant.** declassification, lumping

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

ALLUDE V. ALLUSION N.

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

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

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

ALLURE

to entice by charm, attract

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

ALLY N.

partner, friend, associate

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

ALMA MATER N.

school or college from where one graduated, fostering mother

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

ALMS N.

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

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

ALOOF Adv.

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

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

ALTAR N.

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

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

ALTERCATION N.

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

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

ALTRUISM

unselfish concern for others' welfare

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

ALTIMETER N.

an instrument for measuring height (altitude)

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

ALUMNA N.

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

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

ALUMNUS N.

a male graduate of a college (plural – alumni)

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

AMALGAMATE

to mix, combine

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

AMASS V.

to gather in great quantities, collect

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

AMATEUR (AMETUR) N.

an enthusiast or admirer, nonprofessional

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

AMAZEMENT N. AMAZE V.

astonishment, stupefaction, surprise, wonder, consternation

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

AMAZON N.

a tall, strong masculine woman, female warrior

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

AMBIDEXTROUS

able to use both hands equally well

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

AMBIENT Adj. AMBIENCE N.

surrounding

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

AMBIGUOUS

uncertain, subject to multiple interpretations

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

AMBIVALENCE

attitude of uncertainty, conflicting emotions

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

AMBLE N., V.

an easy gait, a leisurely walk

☑ **Syn.** saunter, linger, drift

👉 Even in her amble, she looks intelligent.

AMBROSIA N.

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

☑ **Syn.** delicacy, nectar, perfume

👉 The chocolate mousse she makes is sheer ambrosia.

AMBULATORY Adj.

able to walk, not bedridden

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

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

AMBUSH N., V.

lying in wait to finally attack by surprise

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

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

👉 Several innocent passengers were killed in the ambush.

AMELIORATE

to make better, improve

☑ **Syn.** rectify, mend

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

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

AMENABLE

agreeable, cooperative

☑ **Syn.** compliant, acquiescent

★ **Ant.** uncooperative, wild

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

AMEND

to improve or correct flaws in

☑ **Syn.** modify, correct

👉 The government should amend the tax law.

AMENITIES N.

convenient features, courtesies

☑ **Syn.** facilities, services

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

AMENITY

pleasantness, something that increases comfort

☑ **Syn.** convenience, advantage

★ **Ant.** inconvenience, unpleasantness

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

AMIALE

friendly, pleasant, likable

☑ **Syn.** affable, agreeable

★ **Ant.** unfriendly, disagreeable

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

AMICABLE

friendly, agreeable

☑ **Syn.** amiable, likable

★ **Ant.** unfriendly, disagreeable

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

AMITY

friendship

☑ **Syn.** accord, concord

★ **Ant.** animosity, enmity

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

AMNESIA N.

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

☑ **Syn.** forgetfulness

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

AMNESTY N.

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

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

★ **Ant.** punishment, imprisonment

👉 On Independence Day many prisoners are granted amnesty.

AMOK, AMUCK Adv.

in a violently raging manner

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

AMORAL

unprincipled, unethical

☑ **Syn.** unscrupulous, without standard

★ **Ant.** principled, moral

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

AMOROUS

strongly attracted to love; showing love

☑ **Syn.** amatory, ardent

★ **Ant.** unloving, cold

👉 The poet wrote many amorous poems about his love.

AMORPHOUS

having no definite form

☑ **Syn.** formless, structureless

★ **Ant.** shaped, definite

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

AMORTISE V. AMORTISATION N.

to reduce debt by paying small regular amounts

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

AMPHIBIAN

creature equally at home on land or in water

- ✗ The frog is the most common amphibian.

AMPLE

abundant, plentiful

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

AMPLIFY

increase, intensify

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

AMPHITHEATRE N.

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

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

AMPUTATE V. AMPUTATION N.

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

AMULET

ornament worn as a charm against evil spirits

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

ANACHRONISM N. ANACHRONISTIC Adj.

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

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

ANACONDA N.

a large South American water snake

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

ANAGRAM N.

A word made by rearranging letters of another word

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

ANALOGOUS

comparable, parallel

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

ANARCHY

absence of government or law, chaos

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

ANATHEMA

ban, curse, something shunned or disliked

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

ANCILLARY

accessory, subordinate

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

ANCHOR N., V.

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

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

Mini Revision Test

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

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

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

ANDROID N.

machine in the form of human being

- ☞ Kids are usually fascinated by androids and cyborgs.

ANECDOTE N.

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

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

ANGUISH N., V.

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

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

ANGULAR

characterised by sharp angles, lean and gaunt

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

ANIMADVERSION N.

a critical and usually censorious remark; adverse criticism

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

ANIMATION

enthusiasm, excitement

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

ANIMOSITY

hatred, hostility

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

ANNALS N.

record of events in a yearwise fashion

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

ANNEAL V.

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

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

ANNIHILATE V. ANNIHILATION N.

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

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

ANOINT V.

to apply oil to as a sacred rite especially for consecration

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

ANNOTATE V.

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

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

ANNUITY N.

a regular payment due each year, yearly allowance

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

ANNUL

to cancel, or make legally invalid

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

ANOMALY

irregularity or deviation from the norm

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

ANONYMITY

condition of having no name or an unknown name

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

ANONYMOUS Adj. ANONYMITY N.

unattested, uncredited, unidentified, unnamed

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

ANTAGONISM N. ANTAGONISTIC Adj.

hostility, active resistance

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

ANTECEDENT Adj.

before in time; prior

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

ANTEDILUVIAN Adj.

antiquated, ancient

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

ANTENATAL Adj.

before birth

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

ANTHOLOGY N.

book of literary selections by various authors

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

ANTHROPOID N.

manlike

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

ANTHROPOLOGIST N.

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

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

ANTHROPOMORPHIC Adj.

having human form or characteristics

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

ANTICLIMAX N.

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

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

ANTIDOTE N.

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

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

ANTI-SEMITISM N.

the philosophy of hating the Jews

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

ANTIPATHY

dislike, hostility, extreme opposition or aversion

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

ANTIQUATED

outdated, obsolete

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

ANTIQUITY

ancient times, the quality of being old

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

ANTITHESIS

exact opposite or direct contrast

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

ANVIL N.

iron block used in hammering out metals.

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

APARTHEID N.

segregation and separate development of races

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

APATHY

lack of feeling or emotion

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

APE V., N.

imitate or mimic; monkey

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

APERTURE N.

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

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

APHASIA N. APHASIC Adj.

loss of speech due to injury or illness

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

APHORISM

old saying or short, pithy statement

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

APHRODISIAC N.

sexual stimulant

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

APLOMB (*EPLOM*) N.

coolness, self-confidence, poise

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

APOCALYPTIC Adj. APOCALYPSE N.

pertaining to the end of the world, prophetic

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

APOCRYPHAL Adj.

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

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

APOGEE N.

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

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

APOSTATE N.

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

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

APOSTLE N.

an early supporter of a cause; promoter, revivalist

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

APOTHECARY N.

a druggist or a pharmacist

- ☞ Many apothecaries indulged in alchemy in ancient times.

APOTHEOSIS N.

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

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

APPALLING Adj. APPALL V.

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

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

APPARITION N.

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

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

APPEASE

to satisfy, calm

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

APPLAUSE N. APPLAUD V.

acclaim, cheering, clapping (v. applaud)

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

APPOSITE Adj.

appropriate, fitting

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

APPRAISAL N. APPRAISE V.

the process of judging the value/worth of something

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

APPREHEND V.

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

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

APPREHENSION N. APPREHENSIVE Adj.

fear of something, worry, anxiety, suspicion

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

APPRISE V.

to inform, advise, notify, to tell

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

APPROBATION N. APPROBATE V.

approval

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

AQUATIC

belonging to or living in water

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

AQUILINE Adj.

like an eagle, bent, hooked, curved

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

ARABLE

suitable for cultivation

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

ARBITRARY

depending solely on individual will, inconsistent

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

ARBITER N. ARBITRATE V.

ARBITRATION N. ARBITRABLE Adj.

judge, person with final decision power

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

ARCADE N.

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

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

ARCANE

secret, obscure, known only to a few

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

ARCH Adj.

principal, chief, roguish

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

ARCHAIC

antiquated, from an earlier time, outdated

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

ARCHAEOLOGY N.

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

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

ARCHETYPE N.

the original model, prototype, ideal form

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

ARCHIVES N.

a repository of public records/monuments, etc.

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

ARCHIPELAGO

large group of islands

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

ARDENT

passionate, enthusiastic, fervent

☑ **Syn.** fervid, impassioned

★ **Ant.** unenthusiastic, dispassionate

⌘ After the last defeat, even the most ardent fans have given up any hope of winning the cup.

ARDUOUS

extremely difficult, laborious

☑ **Syn.** onerous, taxing

★ **Ant.** easy, effortless

⌘ The climb was so arduous that Anita doubted if she would make it to the peak.

ARENA N.

any sphere of action, any place of public contest

☑ **Syn.** stadium, ground, pitch, dome

⌘ We were surprised to see a new candidate enter the arena just before the election.

ARID

extremely dry or deathly boring

☑ **Syn.** parched, monotonous

★ **Ant.** scintillating, humid

⌘ The arid farmland produced no crops.

ARGOT N.

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

☑ **Syn.** jargon, slang, dialect

⌘ In the argot of the college campus the whole issue was a "bogey".

ARMADA N.

a fleet of armed ships

☑ **Syn.** fleet, flotilla, navy, squadron

⌘ The Spanish Armada was sent by King of Spain to invade England in 1588.

ARMAGEDDON N.

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

☑ **Syn.** World War

⌘ He said that unless people in western societies change the way in which they live, the world was heading for an environmental Armageddon.

ARMOURY N. a storehouse of arms and ammunitions

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

AROMA N. AROMATIC Adj.

bouquet, fragrance, perfume, scent, flavour, charm

☑ **Syn.** smell, odour, whiff

⌘ The aroma of good food makes one's mouth water.

AROUSE V. AROUSAL N.

to awaken from sleep

☑ **Syn.** provoke, awaken, whet

★ **Ant.** calm, quiet

⌘ Shrewd politicians were arousing communal passions by delivering fiery speeches.

ARRAIGN V.

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

☑ **Syn.** charge, prosecute, have up

⌘ He was arraigned on charges of aiding and abetting terrorists.

ARRANT Adj.

downright, utter, thorough

☑ **Syn.** complete, total, unmitigated

⌘ He was an arrant fool.

ARROGATE

to demand, claim arrogantly

☑ **Syn.** badger, infringe

★ **Ant.** grant, offer

⌘ Mary watched in astonishment as her boss arrogated all the credit for Mary's brilliant work.

ARSENAL

ammunition storehouse

☑ **Syn.** ordnance depot, armoury

⌘ The soldiers ran for cover as the fire reached the arsenal.

ARSON N. ARSONIST N.

crime of burning properties

☑ **Syn.** incendiarism, firebug

⌘ "Shoot the arsonists!", shouted the general.

⌘ Police suspect arson as the cause of the cinema fire.

ARTICULATE (adj.) – eloquent, fluent

(v) – express, give voice to

☑ **Syn.** eloquent, cogent, assert

★ **Ant.** inarticulate, dumb

⌘ She is such an articulate defender of labour that unions are among her strongest supporters.

ARTIFACT

historical relic, item made by human craft, fabrication

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

ARTIFICE N.

skill, trickery, contrivance, ingenuity

☑ **Syn.** pretence, ploy, deception, lie

⌘ His remorse is just an artifice to gain sympathy.

ARTILLERY N.

offensive weapons of war

☑ **Syn.** arms, guns, armaments, missiles

⌘ Naval gunfire and ground-based artillery are generally less accurate than many aircraft-borne weapons.

ARTISAN

craftsperson, wright

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

ARTLESS Adj.

without guile; free from artificiality, uncultured

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

ASCEND

to rise or climb

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

ASCENDANCY

state of rising, ascending, power or control

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

ASCERTAIN

to determine, discover, make certain of

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

ASCETIC

self-denying, abstinent, austere

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

ASCRIBE V. **ASCRPTION** N.

to assign, impute, attribute

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

ASININE Adj. **ASININITY** N.

of or like an ass / donkey

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

ASKEW

crooked, tilted

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

ASPERSION N. **ASPERSE** V.

slander, calumny, false and damaging remark, defamation

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

ASPIRE

to have great hopes, to aim at a goal

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

ASSASSINATION N. **ASSASSINATE** V.

homicide, killing, murder, slaughter

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

ASSENT N., V.

acceptance, concurrence, accord

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

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

dogmatic, emphatic, firm, forceful, pushy

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

ASSESS V. **ASSESSMENT** N.

appraise, estimate, evaluate, gauge, determine, diagnose

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

ASSIDUOUS

diligent, persistent, hard-working

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

ASSIMILATION

act of blending in, becoming similar

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

ASSORTED Adj. **ASSORTMENT** N.

diverse, mixed, sundry, various, miscellaneous, motley

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

ASSUAGE

to make less severe, ease, relieve

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

ASTEROID N.

small celestial body

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

ASTONISH V. **ASTONISHMENT** N.

to surprise tremendously, to amaze

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

ASTRAY Adv.

out of the right way, in a lost state

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

ASTRIDE Adv.

in a striding position

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

ASTRINGENT

harsh, severe, stern

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

ASTUTE

having good judgment

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

ASYMMETRICAL

not corresponding in size, shape, position, etc.

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

ASYLUM N.

any place of refuge or protection

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

ATHEIST N. **ATHEISM** N.

sceptic, unbeliever, heathen, infidel

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

ATONE

to make amends for a wrong

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

ATROPHY

to waste away, wither from disuse

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

ATROCITY N. **ATROCIOUS** Adj.

brutality, persecution, savagery

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

ATTAIN

to accomplish, gain

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

ATTENUATE V. **ATTENUATION** N.

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

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

ATTEST

to testify, stand as proof of, bear witness

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

ATTIC N.

a small room in the roof of a house

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

ATTIRE V., N.

to dress, accoutre, clad

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

ATTRIBUTE N., V.

essential quality, ascribe

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

ATTRITION N.

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

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

AUDACIOUS

bold, daring, fearless

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

AUDIBLE

capable of being heard

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

AUGMENT

to expand, extend

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

AUGUR, AUGURY N., V.

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

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

AUGUST

dignified, awe-inspiring, venerable

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

AURA N.

a supposed subtle emanation from all living things, distinct character

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

AURAL Adj.

pertaining to the ear

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

AUSPICES N.

sponsorship or patronage

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

AUSPICIOUS

having favourable prospects, promising

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

AUSTERE

stern, strict, unadorned

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

AUTHORITARIAN

extremely strict, bossy

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

AUTOCRACY N.

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

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

AUTOCRAT

dictator

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

AUTONOMOUS

separate, independent

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

AUTONOMY N.

self-governance, liberty, freedom

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

AUTOPSY N.

a postmortem examination

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

AUXILIARY

supplementary, reserve

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

AVALANCHE N., V.

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

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

AVARICE

greed

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

AVENGE V. AVENGER N.

to vindicate, to take revenge on behalf of someone else

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

AVER V.

to declare as true

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

AVERSE Adj. AVERSION N.

antipathetic, indisposed, reluctant

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

AVERT

to turn (something) away, prevent, hinder

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

AVIARY N.

a place for keeping birds

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

AVID Adj.

very enthusiastic, ambitious, desirous to the point of greed

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

AVOW V.

declare, acknowledge

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

AVUNCULAR Adj.

like an uncle

- ⌘ Kids delight in his avuncular indulgence.

AWE N., V

reverential wonder or fear (awe-inspiring, awestruck)

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