

“U”

UBIQUITOUS Adj.

thing which seems to be present everywhere, widespread, common, omnipresent

- ☑ **Syn.** ever-present, everywhere
- ★ **Ant.** rare, scarce, sporadic
- ☒ Corruption is a ubiquitous phenomenon around the world.

ULTERIOR Adj.

hidden or secret, covert, secondary; (esp. of a reason for a particular action) secret

- ☑ **Syn.** concealed, secret, underhanded
- ★ **Ant.** transparent, see-through, clear
- ☒ He claims that his attempts to depose the leader were only for the good of the party but I suspect he may have had some ulterior motive.

UMBAGE N.

to take umbrage, to feel insulted, to feel upset or annoyed

- ☑ **Syn.** offense, pique, indignation
- ☒ The minister took umbrage to the article.

UMPTEN Adj.

very large number, many

- ☒ I have reminded them umpteen number of times but to no avail.

UNABASHED Adj.

not ashamed, blatant, barefaced, shameless, impudent, without any worry about possible criticism or embarrassment

- ☑ **Syn.** brazen, blatant, forward, brash
- ★ **Ant.** modest, coy, demure, dismayed
- ☒ He was quite unabashed in admitting his need for cheap publicity to retain his position in the film industry.

UNADULTERATED

absolutely pure

- ☑ **Syn.** undiluted, original
- ★ **Ant.** degrade, debase
- ☒ Only bottles containing drinking water that is unadulterated with chemicals should be labelled "pure".

UNANIMITY

state of total agreement or unity

- ☑ **Syn.** accord, harmony
- ★ **Ant.** disagreement, division
- ☒ The unanimity of the council on this issue was surprising; I never thought they'd be able to agree on it.

UNAPPEALING

unattractive, unpleasant

- ☑ **Syn.** uninviting, unappealing
- ★ **Ant.** attractive, fascinating
- ☒ The fish dish looked so unappealing that Jitendra could not bring himself to taste it.

UNBRIDLED Adj.

which is not controlled, free, excessive, unrestrained, violent

- ☑ **Syn.** uninhibited, unconcealed
- ★ **Ant.** contained, limited, enclosed
- ☒ Unbridled constructions are turning cities into ghettos.

UNCANNY Adj.

mysterious, astonishing, strange, bizarre, strange or mysterious, difficult or impossible to explain

- ☑ **Syn.** eerie, weird, strange, mysterious
- ☒ It's uncanny how much you and Radhika look like sisters.

UNCONSCIONABLE

unscrupulous, shockingly unfair or unjust

- ☑ **Syn.** immoral, unprincipled
- ★ **Ant.** ethical, acceptable
- ☒ The president's betrayal of his employees who had worked hard to get him elected was unconscionable.

UNCOUTH Adj.

rude, impolite, audacious; lacking grace, politeness and a pleasant appearance; rude and unpleasant

- ☑ **Syn.** boorish, coarse, uncivilised
- ★ **Ant.** sophisticated, polite, courteous
- ☒ An uncouth marketing manager will soon get the boot.

UNCTUOUS Adj.

oily, bland, insincerely suave; full of praise, interest, friendliness, etc. that is unpleasant because it is false

- ☑ **Syn.** sycophantic, grovelling, creepy
- ☒ The salesman was unctuous and glib, hoping to sell us his products.

UNDERHAND Adj.

crafty, crooked, deceptive, done secretly and sometimes dishonestly, in order to achieve an advantage

- ☑ **Syn.** devious, dishonest
- ★ **Ant.** aboveboard
- ☒ The underhand dealings of bankers, bureaucrats and brokers led to the Bombay Bank scam.

UNDERMINE

to sabotage, thwart

- ☑ **Syn.** threaten, compromise
- ★ **Ant.** enhance, improve
- ☒ Rumours of his infidelity undermined the star's marriage, and it eventually ended in divorce.

UNDERScore V.

accentuate, highlight, focus

- ☑ **Syn.** underline, emphasise
- ☒ Underscoring the need for greater transparency in stock trading, the minister launched the BOLT on the BSE.

UNDERWRITE V.

to insure, give guarantee for, certify, endorse

- ☑ **Syn.** guarantee, countersign, fund
- ✗ If a company underwrites an insurance policy, someone's property, etc., they have an agreement to pay out money in case of damage or loss.

UNDULATE V. UNDULATING Adj.

move with a wavelike motion

- ✗ The crowd was undulating behind him, as he led them in an unusual walking prayer.

UNEQUIVOCAL Adj.

clear, easily understood, unambiguous; total or (expressed) without any doubt

- ☑ **Syn.** explicit, obvious, definite
- * **Ant.** equivocal, vague, unclear
- ✗ The union's unequivocal rejection of the latest pay offer will almost certainly lead to further strikes.

UNFLINCHING Adj.

solemn, stoic, unemotional, dignified; not frightened of or trying to avoid danger or unpleasantness

- ☑ **Syn.** unwavering, constant, resolute
- ✗ Only with an unflinching desire for perfection can an artist create masterpieces.

UNGAINLY Adj.

awkward, graceless in movement

- ☑ **Syn.** clumsy, lumbering, mean
- * **Ant.** elegant, refined, poised
- ✗ He is in this ungainly position out of his own doing.

UNIMPEACHABLE Adj.

blameless and exemplary; (of a person's character) completely honest and moral

- ☑ **Syn.** faultless, flawless, impeccable
- * **Ant.** shameful, disgraceful, appalling
- ✗ He has an unimpeachable record of services to the cause of the charity.

UNISON N.

unity of pitch, complete accord, in unison, together; at the same time

- ☑ **Syn.** agreement, harmony, unanimity
- * **Ant.** dispute, argument, friction
- ✗ The international community must act in unison if we are to find a lasting resolution to this problem.

UNKEMPT Adj.

dishevelled, with uncared-for appearance

- ☑ **Syn.** tousled, messy, scruffy
- * **Ant.** tidy, neat, shipshape, organised
- ✗ He always looks unkempt, as if he's just got out of bed.

UNMITIGATED Adj.

unrelieved; immoderate; absolute

- ☑ **Syn.** categorical, complete, total
- * **Ant.** partial, limited
- ✗ His unmitigated enthusiasm lifted our spirits.

UNPRECEDENTED Adj.

novel; unparallel

- ☑ **Syn.** extraordinary, unrivalled, exceptional
- * **Ant.** normal, common
- ✗ In an unprecedented move, the company decided to close the loss-making factories.

UNRAVEL V.

disentangle, solve; (of a piece of woollen or woven cloth) to separate into threads

- ☑ **Syn.** loosen, untangle, unstitch
- ✗ She takes a very long time to unravel her tangled hair.

UNREQUITED Adj.

not reciprocated

- ✗ She suffers in unrequited love.

UNRULY Adj.

wild, with no discipline, defiant; difficult to control and not tending to obey rules

- ☑ **Syn.** boisterous, disobedient, wild
- * **Ant.** well-behaved, dutiful, polite
- ✗ The unruly crowd of demonstrators suddenly turned riotous as the police appeared.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. transgress | a. everywhere at once |
| 2. transient | b. not lasting long |
| 3. trepidation | c. fear |
| 4. turpitude | d. wickedness |
| 5. ubiquitous | e. violate |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

UNSEEMLY Adj.

unbecoming, indecent

- ☑ **Syn.** rude, uncouth, indecorous
- ★ **Ant.** proper, correct, suitable, right
- ☒ Due to an unseemly act of his, he has earned a bad name.

UNTENABLE Adj.

indefensible, not able to be maintained

- ☑ **Syn.** refutable, flimsy, implausible
- ★ **Ant.** tenable, defensible
- ☒ The witness gave such an untenable account of her stand that the judge ruled it as inadmissible.

UNTOWARD Adj.

unfortunate, annoying; unexpected and inconvenient or unpleasant

- ☑ **Syn.** troublesome, awkward
- ★ **Ant.** appropriate, suitable, right, apt
- ☒ Unless anything untoward happens we should be there just before midday.

UNWARRANTED Adj.

which is not justified, unreasonable, undue, lacking a good reason, unnecessary

- ☑ **Syn.** gratuitous, needless, uncalled for
- ★ **Ant.** needed, essential, required
- ☒ Celebrities have to face unwarranted intrusion into their private lives.

UNWIELDY Adj.

large and awkward; (of an object) difficult to move or handle because it is heavy

- ☒ All PSUs are not unwieldy; some are market-friendly and flexible too.

UNWITTING Adj.

unintentional, not knowing, without knowing or planning

- ☑ **Syn.** ignorant, innocent, unconscious
- ★ **Ant.** cautious, cagey, circumspect
- ☒ The two women claimed they were the unwitting victims of a drugs dealer who planted a large quantity of heroin in their luggage.

UPBRAID V.

to scold severely

- ☑ **Syn.** tell off, reproach, rebuke
- ☒ In her newspaper articles she consistently upbraided those in authority who overstepped their limits.

UPROARIOUS Adj.

marked by commotion, extremely funny, very noisy

- ☑ **Syn.** hilarious, a hoot, hysterical
- ☒ The New Year's party was an uproarious affair and a huge success.

UPSHOT N.

outcome; something which happens as a result of other actions, events or decisions

- ☑ **Syn.** result, effect, end
- ☒ The upshot of the discussions is that there will be no redundancies.

URBANE Adj.

sophisticated, cultured; (esp. of a man) confident, comfortable and polite in social situations

- ☑ **Syn.** suave, refined, cultured, stylish
- ★ **Ant.** simple, primitive, unrefined
- ☒ The so-called urbane class of our society does not know the ground realities of our country.

USURP V.

to take possession by force; to take (control or a position of power), esp. without having the right to

- ☑ **Syn.** seize, take, assume, grab
- ★ **Ant.** admit defeat, submit, yield
- ☒ The land mafia are usurping the open plots in our cities.

UTILITARIAN Adj.

practical, accessible, within reach

- ☑ **Syn.** useful, practical, functional
- ★ **Ant.** ineffective, futile, inadequate
- ☒ A utilitarian attitude in life does not bring happiness.

UTOPIA N.

an imaginary ideal place; (the idea of) a perfect society in which everyone works well with each other and is happy

- ☒ To think of eradication of poverty in India is to chase utopia.

UXORIOUS Adj.

submissively fond of a wife

- ☒ He was so uxorious that he thought it an honour to be called henpecked.