

“C”

CABAL N.

a small party united for a secret purpose, gang, conspiracy, plot

- ☑ **Syn.** group, unit, sect, faction, section
- ☞ It is alleged that he was a member of the cabal responsible for the bombings.

CACHE (*KASH*) N.

a hiding place for treasure, provision, ammunition etc., storehouse

- ☑ **Syn.** store, accumulation, reserve
- ☞ I keep a cache of chocolate at the back of the cupboard.

CACHET (*KASHAY*) N.

a seal usually used as a mark of official approval, a distinctive stamp of prestige, mark, emblem

- ☑ **Syn.** status, reputation
- ☞ The Diners club card was a prized cachet in the not-so-distant past.

CACOPHONY N., **CACOPHONOUS** Adj.

discord, horrible sound; harsh, displeasing noise

- ☑ **Syn.** dissonance, disharmony
- ★ **Ant.** harmony, accord, agreement
- ☞ There are some people who enjoy even the cacophony of the streets.

CADAVER N., **CADAVEROUS** Adj.

corpse

- ☑ **Syn.** dead body, remains, carcass
- ☞ Rivers like the Ganges, the Yamuna etc. have been polluted by human and animal cadavers, in addition to other pollutants.
- ☞ He is so emaciated that he appears cadaverous.

CADENCE N.

Balanced, rhythmic flow, as of poetry or oratory

- ☞ The cadence of the parade at the Republic Day always instils a sense of patriotism in me.

CAGEY Adj.

secretive, artfully shy, marked by cleverness

- ☑ **Syn.** wary, guarded, reticent, evasive
- ★ **Ant.** careless, slapdash, imprudent
- ☞ The secret service is cagey about the whole phone-tapping business.

CAJOLE

to flatter, coax, persuade

- ☑ **Syn.** wheedle, coax
- ★ **Ant.** bully, coerce
- ☞ She was confident that she could cajole her father into buying her a new dress.

CALAMITY N., **CALAMITOUS** Adj.

catastrophe, affliction, disaster

- ☑ **Syn.** hardship, distress
- ★ **Ant.** prosperity, tranquillity, blessing
- ☞ They feared the calamitous consequences of yet another war.
- ☞ The UTI scam came as a calamity to the middle class.

CALLIGRAPHY N.

beautiful penmanship, a characteristic writing

- ☑ **Syn.** lettering, handwriting
- ☞ Mary won the calligraphy prize when she was at school.

CALLOUS Adj., **CALLOUSNESS** N.

hardened, cruel, insensitive, unfeeling

- ☑ **Syn.** apathetic, cold, hard-hearted
- ★ **Ant.** sensitive, empathetic, tender
- ☞ The officialdom is notorious for its callousness.
- ☞ Smriti's callous behaviour is an outcome of years of repression.

CALLOW Adj.

inexperienced, immature, juvenile, unsophisticated, youthful

- ☑ **Syn.** naive, adolescent, green
- ★ **Ant.** stylish, difficult, urbane, mature
- ☞ Richard was just a callow youth of sixteen when he arrived in Paris.

CALUMNIATE V., **CALUMNY** N.

to spread malicious slander

- ☞ Media is always handy in calumniating a politician or a public figure.
- ☞ The office was torn apart by calumny; soon nobody trusted anybody.

CAMARADERIE N.

good fellowship, the feeling of comradeship

- ☑ **Syn.** brotherhood, esprit de corps
- ★ **Ant.** enmity, hostility, antagonism
- ☞ Peace-loving nations of the world must unite as it is only through camaraderie that the evils of the world can be eliminated.

CAMEO N.

shell or jewel carved in relief; a small theatrical appearance

- ☑ **Syn.** character part, cameo role
- ☞ He has a cupboard full of cameos.
- ☞ Even a cameo by Amitabh Bachhan is sufficient to pull the crowds to the theatres.

CAMOUFLAGE N., Adj., V.

a device used for disguising oneself to deceive others, conceal

- ☑ **Syn.** disguise, mask, obscure, facade
- ☞ The chameleon's camouflage was so good that the bird failed to spot it.
- ☞ Militarymen wear a camouflage jacket.

CANARD N.

An unfounded or false, deliberately misleading story

- ✗ The canard of sexual exploitation in the university claimed its first victim as the professor committed suicide.

CANDID Adj., CANDIDNESS N.,**CANDOUR N.**

frank, ingenuous, clear, impartial, fair, open and honest, free of bias even to the extent of bluntness

- ☑ **Syn.** true, veracious, scrupulous
- ★ **Ant.** false, untrue, dishonest, evasive
- ✗ A candid judgement is what we all seek from the judiciary.
- ✗ They often criticised me for my candour, but realised its significance when I was given the best manager award.

CANINE Adj., N.

like or pertaining to a dog, related to dogs

- ✗ The feline are loners while the canine move in packs.
- ✗ Sometimes my canine instinct is aroused but I quickly control it.

CANNIBAL N., CANNIBALISM N.

one who eats of the flesh of one's own species

- ✗ It is believed that even today cannibals exist in some parts of our country.

CANNY

smart, founded on common sense, careful

- ☑ **Syn.** astute, sharp
- ★ **Ant.** obtuse, unintelligent
- ✗ The executive's canny business sense saved the company from bankruptcy.

CANOE (KENOO) N.

a boat made of hollowed trunk of a tree

- ✗ Canoes are the cheapest mode of transport in the backwaters of Kerala.

CANON N.

a law or a rule, standard or criterion

- ☑ **Syn.** norm, principle, tenet, annals
- ✗ Hard working executives coin their own canons of business practice.

CANOPY N., V.

awning, covering, shade, tester

- ☑ **Syn.** cover, shelter, blind, roof
- ✗ We sat drinking our coffee under the canopy, grateful for the shade.

CANT N., V.

a hypocritical or perfunctory style of speech, incline, jargon, trite talk, dialect of a particular group

- ☑ **Syn.** insincerity, false piety, humbug
- ★ **Ant.** seriousness, earnestness
- ✗ Despite his cant he cannot pass off as a foreigner.

CANTANKEROUS Adj.

perverse in temper, testy, quarrelsome

- ☑ **Syn.** argumentative, contentious
- ★ **Ant.** quiet, submissive
- ✗ The older some people get, the more demanding and cantankerous they seem to become.

CANTER N., V.

an easy gallop/motion

- ☑ **Syn.** run, gallop, trot, jog, sprint
- ✗ The horse's canter was so graceful!

CANVASS V., N.

determine or seek opinions, votes; to do a survey, solicit votes, opinions or orders; a firm closely woven cloth used as a surface for painting

- ☑ **Syn.** drum up support, test, poll
- ✗ The party workers canvassed the whole night for the local candidate.
- ✗ Mona Lisa, the canvass by Leonardo Da Vinci is a masterpiece to many and a mystery to some.

CAPACIOUS

large, roomy, extensive

- ☑ **Syn.** spacious, commodious
- ★ **Ant.** small, cramped
- ✗ We wondered how many stores occupied the capacious mall.

CAPE N.

a point or extension of land jutting out in water like a peninsula; a sleeveless outer garment that fits closely at the neck and hangs loosely over the shoulders.

- ☑ **Syn.** isthmus, mantle, promontory, headland
- ✗ Ships had to sail around the Cape of Good Hope in order to reach India.
- ✗ Sushmita wore a purple woollen cape for the IFFI awards.

CAPITOL V.

the building in which a legislature convenes (in the US), senate

- ✗ Following the bomb threat, the capitol was evacuated.

CAPITULATE V.

to yield or surrender on certain conditions, to give in, acquiesce

- ☑ **Syn.** cede, succumb, yield, forfeit
- ★ **Ant.** vanquish, subdue, overcome
- ✗ The company had to capitulate to the employees' demand of a wage hike.

CAPRICE N., CAPRICIOUS Adj.

a sudden/abrupt change of mind or opinion

- ☑ **Syn.** impulse, quirk, fancy, fad, vagary
- ✗ The caprice of fate caught him unawares.

CAPSIZE V.

to overturn

- ☑ **Syn.** keel over, tip over, upset
- ✗ The police said that the boat had capsized because of overloading.

CAPTIOUS Adj.

ready to find faults, hypercritical, faultfinding

- ☑ **Syn.** peevish, censorious, hairsplitting
- ☒ He preferred to work overtime than go home to his captious wife.

CARAFE N.

A glass pot with a pouring spout, used in making coffee or tea

- ☒ "Serve me tea in a carafe," he ordered, pushing the mug aside.

CARAVAN N., V.

a group of people travelling together

- ☑ **Syn.** procession, convoy, motorcade
- ☒ The VIP caravan will arrive shortly.
- ☒ We take the children camping or caravanning every summer.

CARCINOGENIC Adj. **CARCINOGEN** N.

a substance that promotes growth of cancer

- ☒ Ultraviolet rays of the sun are carcinogenic.
- ☒ Cigarette smoke contains many carcinogens; that's why smoking is banned at public places.

CARDIOLOGIST

physician specialising in diseases of the heart

- ☒ Although a famous cardiologist performed the operation, Krishna's heart transplant was unsuccessful.

CAREEN V.

To lurch or swerve while in motion

- ☑ **Syn.** stagger, sway, swing
- ☒ The car careened to a grinding halt as I jammed the brakes.

CARICATURE N.

distortion, burlesque

- ☑ **Syn.** cartoon, drawing, skit, sketch
- ☒ There was a wonderful caricature of the prime minister in the newspaper yesterday.

CARNAGE N.

a massacre, large scale killing of people, blood bath, destruction of life, slaughter

- ☑ **Syn.** mass killing, bloodshed, butchery
- ☒ The images of the Godhra carnage still haunt its victims.

CARNAL Adj.

relating to or given to crude bodily pleasures or appetites; marked by sexuality

- ☒ His tastes lie on the carnal side of life.

CARNIVOROUS

meat-eating

- ☑ **Syn.** predatory, raptorial
- ★ **Ant.** herbivorous, vegetarian
- ☒ Dogs are carnivorous animals and do not do well on a vegetarian diet.

CAROUSAL N., **CAROUSE** V.

Boisterous drunken merrymaking or revelry

- ☒ Sameer lost his senses in the New Year's eve carousal and abused Preeti.

CARP V. **CARPING** N., Adj.

to criticise unreasonably, nag, scold, berate, cavil, flay, to nitpick, find fault in a petty manner

- ☑ **Syn.** complain, moan, grumble, nag
- ☒ He's convinced that however much people carp about junk mail, most couldn't live without it.
- ☒ After years of having to listen to her carping criticism, he finally left her.

CARTOGRAPHY N. **CARTOGRAPHER** N.

the science of map-making

- ☒ Cartography originated in Mesopotamia.
- ☒ Leonardo-da-Vinci was a cartographer too.

CASANOVA N.

lover *esp*; a man who is a promiscuous and unscrupulous

- ☒ Commitment in a relationship is not expected of a casanova.

CASCADE N., V.

small waterfall; something falling or rushing forth in quantity

- ☑ **Syn.** flow, pour, drop, spill, tumble
- ☒ A series of cascades had been caused by large boulders which had fallen into the stream.
- ☒ Coins cascaded out of the vending machine.

CASTIGATE

to punish, chastise, criticise severely

- ☑ **Syn.** reprimand, admonish
- ★ **Ant.** praise, commend
- ☒ Sunil's father castigated him for not attending the morning prayer.

CATAclysm N.

deluge, upheaval

- ☑ **Syn.** catastrophe, disaster, calamity
- ☒ The organised killing of millions will have a cataclysmic effect on the small African nation that has been already ravaged by AIDS.

CATALYST

something that does not change but causes change

- ☑ **Syn.** accelerator, stimulant
- ★ **Ant.** blockage, anticatalyst
- ☒ The imposition of fresh taxes acted as a catalyst and the revolution gathered momentum.

CATARACT N.

great waterfall; eye abnormality

- ☑ **Syn.** cascade, chute, torrent, flume
- ☒ Victoria Falls is a mighty cataract.
- ☒ Diabetes also causes cataract.

CATASTROPHE N. CATASTROPHIC Adj.

adversity, affliction, blow, mass destruction, disaster

- ☑ **Syn.** calamity, misfortune, ruin
- ☒ A catastrophic storm ravaged the city.
- ☒ The emigration of scientists is a catastrophe for the country.

CATEGORICAL Adj. CATEGORICALLY Adv.

unequivocal, unambiguous, total, definite, absolute

- ☑ **Syn.** clear-cut, uncompromising
- ★ **Ant.** qualified, fit, capable, competent
- ☒ He wanted a categorical reply to his query.
- ☒ Though the government categorically denied any plans for retrenchment, the employees of PSUs were not convinced.

CATHARTIC Adj., N. CATHARSIS N.

purifying, purgative, cleansing

- ☑ **Syn.** liberating, beneficial, energising
- ☒ Mountaineering, the buffs say, is a cathartic experience.

CATHOLIC

universal, broad and comprehensive

- ☑ **Syn.** generic, unbiased
- ★ **Ant.** parochial, limited
- ☒ Hot tea with honey is a catholic remedy for a sore throat.

CAUCUS N.

Any small and influential group within a larger body

- ☑ **Syn.** conclave, committee, conference
- ☒ In the US, caucuses are sometimes held to decide which candidate a group will support.

CAUSALITY

cause and effect relationship

- ☑ **Syn.** connection, agent
- ☒ There was definite causality between the new pet and Reshma's respiratory problems.

CAUSTIC

biting, sarcastic, able to burn

- ☑ **Syn.** stinging, scathing
- ★ **Ant.** kind, soothing
- ☒ Khaled Mohammed is reputed for his well-written but caustic movie reviews.

CAUTERIZE V.

to burn/destroy/sear with a hot substance

- ☒ Cauterisation was the only cure for Rabies in the 18th century.

CAVALCADE N.

a procession or sequence

- ☑ **Syn.** column, caravan, convoy, line
- ☒ The PM's cavalcade passed through the city an hour ago.

CAVALIER (n)

mounted soldier

(adj) haughty, unceremonious

- ☑ **Syn.** offhand, contemptuous
- ★ **Ant.** respectful, modest
- ☒ The nobleman's cavalier attitude towards the suffering of the peasants made them hate him.

CAVIL V., N.

to find faults with or raise trivial objections to, to object in an unimportant way, to find fault in a captious way

- ☑ **Syn.** carp, quibble, nudge, henpeck
- ☒ Do not cavil or you will demoralise the young scientist.
- ☒ They cavilled at the price, although many freebies had been included.

CEDE V.

transfer, yield title to, surrender formally

- ☑ **Syn.** concede, let go, relinquish
- ★ **Ant.** acquire, obtain, attain, buy
- ☒ He ceded all his real estate to the school of the handicapped.

CELERITY N.

alacrity, cadence, swiftness, stride, speed, rapidity

- ☑ **Syn.** haste, promptness
- ☑ **Ant.** disregard, lassitude
- ☒ James Bond's celerity holds the audience spellbound.

CELIBACY N. CELIBATE Adj.

unmarried state especially under a vow

- ☒ Catholic priests are expected to lead celibate lives.
- ☒ *Bhishma* of *Mahabharata* observed celibacy.

CELEBRITY

fame, well-known person

- ☑ **Syn.** stardom, renown
- ★ **Ant.** obscurity, anonymity
- ☒ The celebrity was mobbed by crazed fans as soon as he stepped out of the car.

CELLAR N.

basement, bunker, crypt, vault

- ☑ **Syn.** vault, underground room
- ☒ The cellars full of wine casks made a tempting sight.

CEMETERY N.

burial ground, churchyard, graveyard

- ☑ **Syn.** memorial park
- ☒ The municipal cemetery dotted with tombstones provided the eerie setting for the finale of the horror movie.

CENSURE (SENSHER) V., N

to condemn, to blame, to express disapproval of

- ☑ **Syn.** fault, reprimand, knock, scorn
- ★ **Ant.** praise, admire, extol, eulogise
- ☒ The directors were censured for their lack of decisiveness during the crisis.

CENTRIPETAL

directed or moving towards the centre

- ★ **Ant.** centrifugal
- ☒ Centripetal force keeps trains from derailing as they round curves.

CERULEAN Adj.

sky blue, sea green

- ☑ **Syn.** azure, cobalt, navy, sapphire
- ☒ I was mesmerised by her cerulean eyes.

CESSATION N., CEASE V.

a stopping, pause, suspension

- ☑ **Syn.** termination, close, ending, pause
- ☒ The politician asked if the cessation of terrorist activities had made the Punjab police complacent.

CHAFE V.

to wear off by rubbing, to abrade, to get irritate, vex

- ☑ **Syn.** scrap, scratch, annoy
- ☒ Please make sure that the collar is not too tight or it might chafe the dog's neck.
- ☒ He was a man of vision who chafed against the cruel practices of his time.

CHAGRIN N.

something that annoys or causes embarrassment, feeling distress, embarrassment, unhappiness brought on by humiliation, disappointment, vexation

- ☑ **Syn.** mortification
- ☒ Much to his chagrin, he found that the work had not been completed.

CHAMPION (v)

to defend or support

(n) – victor, winner

- ☑ **Syn.** proponent, promoter
- ★ **Ant.** opponent, critic
- ☒ Usha continued to champion the rights of the prisoner, as she believed that he was innocent.

CHAOS N. CHAOTIC Adj.

commotion, disturbance, anarchy, confusion, extreme disorder, confusion

- ☑ **Syn.** imbroglio, clutter, disarray
- ★ **Ant.** regularity, uniformity, symmetry
- ☒ Chaos theory is a scientific theory about situations that obey particular laws but appear to have little or no order.

CHAPERON N.

an older person who supervises and protects younger ones

- ☑ **Syn.** escort, guide, retinue
- ☒ The family was chaperoned to safety by the commandos.

CHARISMA N. CHARISMATIC Adj.

divine gift; great popular charm or appeal

- ☑ **Syn.** personality, magnetism, allure
- ☒ I can't understand how a man of so little personal charisma came to be the chairman of this company.
- ☒ A charismatic actor like Shahrukh is a known face in Hollywood too.

CHARLATAN

quack, fake

- ☑ **Syn.** fraud, cheat
- ★ **Ant.** real, genuine
- ☒ The patient called the doctor a charlatan as the medicines did not work.

CHARY Adj.

careful, prudent, wary, watchful, ungenerous, stingy, cautious

- ☑ **Syn.** suspicious, mindful, shy of
- ☒ Banks used to lend money to anyone but they've grown chary since the recession.

CHASM (KAZM) N.

a big gap on earth's surface, abyss, a major difference of opinion

- ☑ **Syn.** breach, cleft, canyon, gorge
- ☒ They leaned over the rails and peered down into the dizzying chasm below.
- ☒ As the talks failed, the political chasm between the two countries widened.

CHASTE Adj.

refined and pure in style, modest, pure from unlawful sexual intercourse

- ☑ **Syn.** abstinent, maidenly, virginal
- ☒ In the past, a woman needed to be chaste to make a good marriage.

CHASTISE V., CHASTEN (CHASM) Adj.

to punish, to restrain or moderate, to castigate

- ☑ **Syn.** reprimand, discipline, chastise
- ☒ To chasten his errant son, the father disowned him.
- ☒ The kids were chastised for picking their neighbours' flowers.

CHAUVINIST N. CHAUVINISM N. CHAUVINISTIC Adj.

blindly devoted patriot; prejudiced belief in the superiority of one's own gender

- ☑ **Syn.** bigot, sexist
- ☒ It is male chauvinism, when the few women who have jobs are ridiculed.

CHECKERED/CHEQUERED Adj.

patterned with alternating squares of colour; to vary with contrasting elements or situations

- ☒ As the chequered flag went up in the Shanghai Grand Prix, Ferrari won this year's championship.
- ☒ In his checkered career, he lived in palaces as well as barns.

CHERUBIC Adj.

angelic, innocent-looking

- ☑ **Syn.** divine, holy, blessed, spiritual
- ☒ Her eyes, her innocent queries and her disarming smile make her cherubic.

CHIC (*SHEK*) N., Adj.

style, elegance, skill, fashionable

- ☑ **Syn.** attractive, elegant, modish
- ☒ She wears chic, expensive clothes with designer labels.
- ☒ Chic females in the malls is what attracts boys there.

CHICANERY

trickery, fraud, deception

- ☑ **Syn.** deceit, duplicity
- * **Ant.** honesty, scrupulousness
- ☒ The buyer must be on guard against chicanery while buying a used car.

CHIDE

to scold, express disapproval

- ☑ **Syn.** chastise, reprimand
- * **Ant.** laud, approve
- ☒ Fatima chided her dog for eating the birthday cake that she had baked for her friend.

CHIMERA (*KI MERA*) N. **CHIMERICAL** Adj.

a wild fancy

- ☑ **Syn.** fantasy, daydream
- * **Ant.** reality, realism, truth, certainty
- ☒ Precision and quality is a chimera for Chinese manufacturers, according to their Indian rivals.

CHIVALROUS (*SHI-VALROUS*) Adj. **CHIVALRY** N.

brave, bold, gallant, courteous to ladies

- ☑ **Syn.** courtly, mannerly, gracious
- * **Ant.** boorish, rude, impolite, rough
- ☒ Men, they say, are chivalrous as long as the bride is new or belongs to another.
- ☒ Chivalry in tits and bits is still visible in the Indian society.

CHOLERIC

easily angered, short-tempered

- ☑ **Syn.** irritable, irascible
- * **Ant.** amiable, affable
- ☒ The choleric principal raged at the students who had come late to school.

CHOICE (adj.)

specially selected, preferred

- (n) – selection, picking
- ☑ **Syn.** finest, exclusive
- * **Ant.** inferior, mediocre
- ☒ When he took the choicest cut of the cake for himself, it annoyed everybody.

CHROMATIC – relating to colour

- ☑ **Syn.** hued, bright
- * **Ant.** wan, pallid
- ☒ As he was colour blind, his chromatic perception was different from normal people.

CHRONIC Adj.

of long duration, continuing

- ☑ **Syn.** prolonged, persistent, extended
- ☒ Sloth is a chronic malady of the Indian psyche.

CHURLISH Adj., **CHURLISHNESS** N.

rude, ungracious, insolent, ill-mannered

- ☑ **Syn.** boorish, truculent, impolite
- * **Ant.** courteous, polite, considerate
- ☒ Riches should not be an excuse for churlishness.
- ☒ They invited me to dinner and I thought it would be churlish to refuse.

CHUTZPAH (*HOOTSPE*) N.

excessive boldness, nerve

- ☑ **Syn.** gall, brashness, effrontery
- ☒ Bhutto's chutzpah met an ignominious end.

CIRCUITOUS Adj.

having a circular or winding route; roundabout

- ☑ **Syn.** indirect, meandering, winding
- * **Ant.** direct, straight, through
- ☒ To declare someone very simple is a circuitous way of calling him a fool.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. cosmopolitan | a. believable |
| 2. covert | b. worldly and sophisticated |
| 3. credible | c. mysterious |
| 4. criterion | d. standard |
| 5. cryptic | e. secret |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Tes

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

CIRCUMLOCUTION N.

expressing an idea indirectly, evasive talk, pleonasm

- ⌘ Politicians excel in the art of circumlocution.

CIRCUMSCRIBE

to encircle, restrict, confine

- ☑ **Syn.** surround, demarcate
- ★ **Ant.** liberate, set free
- ⌘ Pahalgam is circumscribed by rolling mountains.

CIRCUMSPECT

cautious, wary

- ☑ **Syn.** guarded, secretive
- ★ **Ant.** frank, open
- ⌘ Repeated failures have made Jack far more circumspect in his ventures.

CIRCUMVENT

to go around, avoid

- ☑ **Syn.** evade, dodge
- ★ **Ant.** confront, face
- ⌘ Lalita circumvented the hospital's rules and remained long after visiting hours, pretending to be a doctor's relative.

CISTERN

tank for rainwater

- ☑ **Syn.** reservoir, vat
- ⌘ When their water supply was cut off, the family had to rely on the old cistern.

CITADEL

fortress or stronghold

- ☑ **Syn.** castle, fortification
- ⌘ The nobleman retreated to his citadel to protect himself from an attack.

CIVIL

polite, relating to citizens

- ☑ **Syn.** civilised, polished
- ★ **Ant.** impolite, uncultured
- ⌘ Police officers are instructed to be civil to the general public, although cases of highhandedness continue to occur.

CLAIRVOYANT Adj., CLAIRVOYANCE N.

Having the power to see objects or events that cannot be perceived by the senses

- ⌘ The clairvoyant foretold the rise of India and China as new superpowers.

CLANDESTINE

secretive, concealed for a darker purpose

- ☑ **Syn.** covert, stealthy
- ★ **Ant.** open, above board
- ⌘ The double agent paid many clandestine visits to the president's office in the dead of night.

CLAMBER V.

climb by crawling

- ☑ **Syn.** scramble, scale, mount, crawl
- ⌘ He clambered up the cliff inch by inch.

CLAMOUR N., CLAMOUROUS N.

a loud continuous outcry

- ☑ **Syn.** yell, cry, screech, bawl, holler
- ★ **Ant.** whisper, sigh, rumour, hint
- ⌘ Every politician clamours for a place in the cabinet.

CLANGOUR N.

loud, resounding noise

- ☑ **Syn.** peal, ringing, tolling, dingdong
- ⌘ The noise level in today's life has reached such a level, that the clangour destroys all peace.

CLARITY

clearness, clear understanding

- ☑ **Syn.** lucidity, comprehensibility
- ★ **Ant.** confusion, incomprehensibility
- ⌘ She explained the plan to him with the utmost clarity, but he still failed to understand.

CLAUSTROPHOBIA N.

CLAUSTROPHOBIC Adj.

fear of small enclosed spaces

- ⌘ Because of his claustrophobia, he used to keep the doors of his room wide open, even when he slept.
- ⌘ I feel claustrophobic in crowded suburban trains.

CLEAVE V.

to separate into distinct parts, to split

- ☑ **Syn.** slice, cut, slash, smite, hew, chop
- ⌘ Communal politics finally cleaved Indian subcontinent.

CLEMENT Adj., CLEMENCY N.

disposition to be lenient; mildness, as of the weather

- ☑ **Syn.** mercy, forgiveness, moderation
- ★ **Ant.** harshness, austerity, bleakness
- ⌘ When the supreme court upheld the death penalty, the prisoner prayed to the President of India for clemency.
- ⌘ Justice Bhandari is known to be a clement judge and has never awarded the capital punishment.

CLICHE (KLEESHAY) N., Adj.

a stereotyped phrase, overworked expression, banality

- ☑ **Syn.** commonplace, platitude
- ⌘ Women's emancipation has become a cliché.
- ⌘ His clichéd expressions failed to rouse her empathy for him.

CLIQUE N.

small, exclusive group

- ☑ **Syn.** cabal, faction, clan, gang, coterie
- ⌘ He left the party, claiming that a clique had hijacked its ideals.

CLOISTER N., V.

A place, especially a monastery or convent, devoted to religious seclusion; to seclude

- ⌘ Dr. Ashok Sen, a nuclear scientist, cloistered himself in his lab for years, to come up with a nucleus separator.

CLOSET N., V.

a small private room, private chambers of a sovereign

- ☑ **Syn.** private, clandestine, secretive
- ★ **Ant.** open, unlock, unbolt, unfasten
- ✗ Once the CBI enquiry started, the secrets started coming out of the closet.

CLOUT N.

great influence, especially political or social

- ☑ **Syn.** wallop, whack, smack, blow
- ✗ Women in dual-earner households are gaining in job status and earnings, giving them more clout at work and at home.

CLOYING Adj.

distasteful because excessive, excessively sweet or sentimental

- ☑ **Syn.** over-sweet, sticky, sugary
- ★ **Ant.** clean, spotless, dirt free, tidy
- ✗ She criticised what she described as the film's cloying sentimentality.

COAX V.

to try and persuade by flattery or fondling, to soothe or pet, cajole

- ☑ **Syn.** wheedle, persuade, entice
- ★ **Ant.** force, compel, coerce
- ✗ He coaxed his parents into sending him abroad.

COAGULATE

to clot or change from a liquid to a solid

- ☑ **Syn.** clot, thicken
- ★ **Ant.** liquefy, melt
- ✗ Haemophiliacs can bleed to death because their blood is incapable of coagulating.

COERCE

to compel by force, intimidate

- ☑ **Syn.** constrain, pressurise
- ★ **Ant.** persuade, coax
- ✗ The gun-wielding thief coerced the cashier into handing over all the money.

COCOON N.

the silky protective sheath spun by insect larvae while developing

- ☑ **Syn.** insulate, protect, envelop, wrap
- ★ **Ant.** expose, picture, rendering
- ✗ The only way to succeed is to break out of the cocoon of inhibitions.
- ✗ Rajesh cocooned himself from the world after his failed suicide attempt.

CODDLE V.

to treat gently, pamper

- ✗ We never coddle our students.

COFFER N.

a chest for holding treasure or money, vault

- ☑ **Syn.** casket, strongbox, safe, treasury
- ✗ The government's forex coffers were empty in 1991.

COG N.

a spoke in a wheel, an unimportant person in a large organisation

- ☑ **Syn.** component, gear, mechanism
- ✗ Oil the cogs, they say, to keep the wheel moving.

COGENT Adj.

convincing, persuasive, pertinent

- ☑ **Syn.** forceful, strong, well-argued, relevant
- ★ **Ant.** unconvincing, weak, feeble
- ✗ Hitler's cogent arguments were enough to convince his countrymen about the legitimacy of his heinous crimes.

COGITATE V.

to give serious consideration or thought to, to contemplate, think over

- ☑ **Syn.** consider, deliberate, ruminate
- ✗ For a world-class economy India must cogitate over eco-friendly legislation.

COGNOSCENTE (*CONYOSHENTI*) N.

a critical judge of something, a connoisseur, esp. one of arts, wines etc.

- ✗ When it comes to wines, he is considered a cognoscente.

COHERENT

intelligible, lucid, understandable

- ☑ **Syn.** rational, comprehensible
- ★ **Ant.** irrational, muddled
- ✗ Chitra was so tired that her speech was barely coherent.

COHORTS N.

henchmen

- ✗ The mafia kingpin arrived in Mumbai along with his cohorts.

COLLAGE N.

any work put together from assembled fragments

- ☑ **Syn.** patchwork, collection
- ✗ India is a veritable collage of cultures and ideologies.

COLLATE V., **COLLATION** N.

to assemble pages of a file or manuscript in proper order, sort, correlate; a light meal

- ☑ **Syn.** collect, gather, assemble, pool
- ✗ The anthropologists have more or less collated the history of mankind.
- ✗ Since he invariably reached home late, he preferred a collation to a heavy meal.

COLLATERAL

accompaniment, security

- ☑ **Syn.** corroborative, surety
- ✗ The CEO urged the managers to stick to the agenda and not be distracted by collateral issues.

COLLOQUY N.

mutual discourse, fairly serious conversation, dialogue, conference

- ☑ **Syn.** discussion, meeting, symposium
- ✗ John burst into the house eager to tell his good news but, noticing that his parents were engaged in quiet colloquy, he decided to wait.

COLLOQUIAL Adj., N.

informal talk, unceremonious talk, pertaining to conversational talk

- ☑ **Syn.** idiomatic, everyday
- ⌘ His colloquial manner was contrary to the traditional stiff-upper-lip of the British.

COLOSSAL Adj., **COLOSSUS** N.

huge, enormous; a huge statue

- ☑ **Syn.** gargantuan, mammoth, titan
- ⌘ The swindling employee caused colossal damage to the company.
- ⌘ India is ruled by the colossus of bureaucracy.

COLLUSION N.

A secret agreement between two or more parties for a fraudulent, illegal, or deceitful purpose; connivance

- ⌘ The collusion between the two terrorist groups is a matter of grave concern for the police department.

COMATOSE Adj.

drowsy, sleepy, affected with coma, unconscious

- ☑ **Syn.** exhausted, spent, passed out, torpid
- ★ **Ant.** energetic, active, brisk, bouncy
- ⌘ The editorial asked if the intelligence of the country was comatose after the police failed to achieve any breakthrough in the bomb blasts case.

COMELY Adj.

pleasing and wholesome in appearance; attractive

- ⌘ I would love to have a comely girl as my wife.

COMMEMORATE V.

to celebrate, to preserve the memory of

- ☑ **Syn.** honour, remember, observe
- ★ **Ant.** ignore, disregard, discount
- ⌘ A statue has been built to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of the poet.

COMMEND

to compliment, praise

- ☑ **Syn.** applaud, extol
- ★ **Ant.** criticise, condemn
- ⌘ The teacher commended Yukta on her brilliant performance in the test.

COMMENSURATE

proportional

- ☑ **Syn.** equivalent, corresponding
- ★ **Ant.** disproportionate, inordinate
- ⌘ Steve was given a salary commensurate with his experience.

COMMENSURABLE Adj.

capable of being measured by same unit

- ⌘ The grief suffered by the innocent victims of the blast and the alleged injustices meted out to the jailed comrades were certainly not commensurable.

COMMISSARY N.

one to whom any charge is committed, an officer, a deputy

- ⌘ He is the newly appointed commissary for the region.

COMMISERATE V.

to condole with, to express pity for, to sympathise with

- ☑ **Syn.** empathise, console
- ⌘ Most commiserate with the poor, only a few lend a helping hand.

COMMODIOUS Adj.

roomy, spacious, comfortable

- ☑ **Syn.** large, ample, big, vast, extensive
- ★ **Ant.** overcrowded, restricted
- ⌘ Colonial mansions are commodious and have an ambience.

COMMONPLACE

found every day

- ☑ **Syn.** ordinary, mediocre
- ★ **Ant.** special, exceptional
- ⌘ Computers are commonplace in modern offices.

COMMOTION N.

activity, ado, action, turmoil

- ☑ **Syn.** disquiet, confusion, bustle
- ★ **Ant.** calmness, tranquillity, serenity
- ⌘ The bomb scare created a commotion in the court house.

COMMUNICABLE

transmittable

- ☑ **Syn.** contagious, infectious
- ★ **Ant.** incommunicable, non-transferable
- ⌘ Nurses must wear surgical masks as a precaution against communicable diseases.

COMMUTE

travel, exchange, reduce penalty

- ☑ **Syn.** attenuate, curtail
- ★ **Ant.** increase, uphold
- ⌘ His death sentence was commuted on an appeal filed by his wife.

COMPASSION N.

pity, commiseration, sympathy, forbearance, awareness and caring for others, sympathy for others' misfortunes

- ☑ **Syn.** empathy, kindness, care
- ★ **Ant.** coldness, chilliness, frostiness
- ⌘ "I understand how difficult it must be for you to live without your parents," she said with compassion.

COMPENDIUM N.

brief summary of a larger work, abstract

- ⌘ The students shouted with happiness when the teacher distributed a glossy compendium of Maths formulae just before the test.

COMPELLING

having a powerful and irresistible effect

- ☑ **Syn.** enthralling, captivating
- ★ **Ant.** boring, dull
- ⌘ The defense lawyer's compelling arguments made the jurors sympathetic towards the accused.

COMPENSATE

to repay or reimburse

☑ **Syn.** recompense, make amends

✗ The moving company had to compensate the customer for causing damage to the furniture.

COMPLACENT Adj. **COMPLACENCY** N. **COMPLACENCE** N.

satisfied with success and not trying for further improvements

☑ **Syn.** contented, pleased with oneself

★ **Ant.** agitated, turbulent

✗ The complacent company soon realised that its slow pace of change had allowed its competitors to spread their tentacles.

✗ The Roman Empire can attribute its downfall to the complacency of its people.

COMPLAISANT Adj.

cheerfully obliging, desirous of pleasing

✗ A complaisant attitude reflects insincerity towards the organisation.

COMPLEMENT

to complete, perfect

☑ **Syn.** accompaniment, adjunct

★ **Ant.** contrast, disparity

✗ Gita's maroon sweater complemented her golden hair perfectly.

COMPLIANT

submissive and yielding

☑ **Syn.** acquiescent, amenable

★ **Ant.** recalcitrant, uncooperative

✗ The new employee was less qualified but more compliant, leading to less conflicts in the office.

COMPLICITY N.

participation or involvement in a questionable act or crime

☑ **Syn.** responsibility, connivance

✗ His complicity in the sabotage case led to termination of his services.

COMPLY V., **COMPLIANCE** N.

accord, acquiesce, adhere to, agree to

☑ **Syn.** obey, fulfill, abide by, submit

★ **Ant.** defy, contravene, violate

✗ Comply with the dictates of your conscience and you will never have to regret.

✗ The government has eased the procedure for filing tax returns but has made compliance mandatory.

COMPOSURE N.

mental calmness

☑ **Syn.** equanimity, serenity, mixture

★ **Ant.** agitation, campaigning, protest

✗ You may feel nervous but don't lose your composure in front of your interviewer.

COMPOUND (adj.)

complex, composed of several parts

(n) – a mixture of two or more things

☑ **Syn.** composite, blended

★ **Ant.** simple, synthesized

✗ A compound word is a combination of two or more words.

COMPRESS

to reduce, squeeze

☑ **Syn.** condense, contract

★ **Ant.** amplify, enlarge

✗ The campers compressed the six-man tent into a tiny package.

COMPRISE V.

include, consist of

☑ **Syn.** encompass, embrace, involve

★ **Ant.** exclude, bar, prohibit, prevent

✗ India as a nation comprises as many cultures as there are states.

✗ The course comprises a class book, a practice book and an audio tape.

COMPULSIVE

obsessive, fanatic

☑ **Syn.** distraught, erratic

★ **Ant.** controlled, flexible

✗ A compulsive liar, Ravi claimed that he had once climbed Mount Everest with a yak on his back.

COMPUNCTION N.

A strong uneasiness caused by a sense of guilt

✗ Milind lacked compunction as he was seen partying after committing the crime.

Mini Revision Test

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

1. circumscribe
2. circumspect
3. circumvent
4. civil
5. clemency

- a. frustrate
- b. draw a line around
- c. cautious
- d. polite
- e. mercy

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

CONCEDE V.

to admit reluctantly, to yield

- ☑ **Syn.** grant, allow, compromise, forfeit
- ★ **Ant.** maintain, continue, sustain
- ⌘ The losing candidate conceded at midnight after the polls had closed.

CONCEIT N., CONCEITED Adj.

Holding or characterised by an unduly high opinion of oneself

- ☑ **Syn.** smug, arrogant, snobbish
- ⌘ He's a conceited young man who believes he's always right about everything.

CONCEPTUALISE

to envision, imagine

- ☑ **Syn.** visualise, behold
- ⌘ It was easier to conceptualise the new building than construct it.

CONCILIATORY Adj. CONCILIATION N.

reconciling, soothing

- ☑ **Syn.** appeasing, pacifying, assuaging
- ★ **Ant.** provocative, confrontational
- ⌘ He took a conciliatory initiative to end the discord.

CONCLAVE N.

private meeting, secret meeting, convention

- ☑ **Syn.** assembly, council, congress
- ⌘ The ministers huddled in a conclave to take the decision.

CONCOCT V., CONCOCTION N.

to prepare by mixing ingredients, as in cooking; to devise, using skill and intelligence

- ☑ **Syn.** contrive, cook-up, formulate
- ⌘ This concoction will relieve you of your cold.
- ⌘ Shyam concocted a story for his late arrival.

CONCOMITANT Adj., N.

accompanying, occurring along with

- ☑ **Syn.** attendant, connected, affiliated
- ★ **Ant.** unrelated, unconnected, distinct
- ⌘ Social change is concomitant to economic revolution.
- ⌘ If there is a shortage, there will be a concomitant rise in prices.

CONCORD

agreement, harmony

- ☑ **Syn.** pact, consensus
- ★ **Ant.** discord, disagreement
- ⌘ The manager and her employees were in concord over the changes to the product.

CONCUR

to agree

- ☑ **Syn.** accede, acquiesce
- ★ **Ant.** argue, object
- ⌘ When the owner suggested that there was a need to put in extra work to tide over the problem, everyone concurred.

CONDESCEND V.

to descend willingly from a superior position, to unbend

- ☑ **Syn.** stoop, deign
- ⌘ I cannot believe that he could condescend to this level, just to insult me.

CONDIMENTS N.

A substance, such as a relish, vinegar, or spice, used to flavour or complement food.

- ⌘ Add a couple of condiments to this bland curry and it will become delectable.

CONDOMINIUM N.

a building or complex in which units of property such as apartments are owned by individuals and common parts like roof are jointly owned; joint sovereignty

- ⌘ The condominium of the communist elite is no different from their erstwhile rulers.
- ⌘ The allies feared that they were pawns in a superpower condominium.

CONDONE V., CONDONATION N.

to forgive, excuse, overlook, to pardon

- ☑ **Syn.** disregard, close the eyes to
- ★ **Ant.** acknowledge, admit, recognise
- ⌘ If the government is seen to condone violence, the bloodshed will never stop.

CONDUCTIVE Adj.

helpful, suitable, promoting, furthering, aiding, contributive

- ☑ **Syn.** favourable, encouraging
- ⌘ A work culture conducive for learning is what management graduates need in their internship.

CONFISCATE

to appropriate, seize

- ☑ **Syn.** extract, annex
- ★ **Ant.** bequeath, relinquish
- ⌘ The FBI agents confiscated the shipment and arrested the drug dealers.

CONFLAGRATION N.

a deadly and devastating fire

- ☑ **Syn.** inferno, bush fire, forest fire
- ⌘ The conflagration in the UP hills has damaged the ecosystem permanently.

CONFLUENCE

gathering, meeting of two streams

- ☑ **Syn.** assemblage, merger
- ★ **Ant.** divergence, split
- ⌘ Allahabad is situated at the confluence of two rivers.

CONFOUND V. confuse, puzzle

☑ **Syn.** stun, amaze, mystify, bewilder

- ⌘ An elderly man from Hoogly has confounded doctors at the local hospital by getting up and walking after he was officially declared dead.

CONGEAL

to become thick or solid, as a liquid freezing

- ☑ **Syn.** coagulate, clot
- ★ **Ant.** dissolve, liquefy
- ✗ The melted butter congealed on the floor, forming a sticky mass.

CONGENIAL

similar in tastes and habits

- ☑ **Syn.** affable, convivial
- ★ **Ant.** antagonistic, unsociable
- ✗ Couples with congenial personalities stay together longer than those who are opposites.

CONGENITAL

existing since birth

- ☑ **Syn.** inherent, innate
- ★ **Ant.** acquired
- ✗ The infant's congenital deformity was corrected through surgery.

CONGLOMERATE

collected group of varied things

- ☑ **Syn.** aggregation, assemblage
- ★ **Ant.** individual, unit
- ✗ The conglomerate manufactured everything from chemicals to trucks.

CONGRESS

formal meeting or assembly

- ☑ **Syn.** convention, convocation
- ★ **Ant.** dispersion, disbanding
- ✗ The parties debated long into the night, but could not reach a compromise.

CONJECTURE N., V.

surmise, guess, supposition, conclusion

- ☑ **Syn.** guess, inference, speculation
- ✗ It is dangerous to act on mere conjectures.

CONJUGAL Adj.

Of or relating to marriage or the relationship of spouses

- ✗ Today's youth start enjoying conjugal bliss even prior to marriage.

CONJURE V.

summon a devil, practise magic; imagine, invent

- ☑ **Syn.** summon, call-up, involve
- ✗ A completely happy life has to be conjured up.

CONNIVE

to conspire, deliberately ignore

- ☑ **Syn.** devise, cogitate
- ✗ The customs officials were found to have connived with the smugglers.

CONNOISSEUR N.

expert, aesthete, critic, judge,

- ☑ **Syn.** authority, specialist, aficionado
- ✗ A connoisseur will be able to tell you the value of that painting you found in your attic.
- ✗ I'm no connoisseur but I know a good champagne when I taste one.

CONSCIENTIOUS Adj.

moral, honourable, right

- ☑ **Syn.** diligent, exact, meticulous
- ✗ Sheetal is an excellent student--bright, attentive and conscientious.

CONSCRIPT N., V.

drafted, person forced into military service, to draft or enlist a person by law or force

- ☑ **Syn.** recruit, enlist, enroll, rookie
- ✗ One person from a family compulsorily has to be a conscript in some countries.
- ✗ Many young men were conscripted into the army during the Indo-China war.

CONSECRATE V., Adj

to devote or declare to a sacred cause

- ☑ **Syn.** bless, anoint, baptise, purify
- ✗ The monument is consecrated to the memory of fallen heroes.
- ✗ They assembled at that consecrated spot to pray for peace.

CONSENSUS

unanimity, agreement of opinion or attitude

- ☑ **Syn.** accord, concord
- ★ **Ant.** discord, dissension
- ✗ The jurors finally reached a consensus and declared the defendant guilty.

CONSIGN

to commit, entrust

- ☑ **Syn.** delegate, turn over
- ★ **Ant.** keep, receive
- ✗ My aunt consigned her cat to the care of her neighbour while she vacationed in Kashmir.

CONSOLATION

something providing comfort or solace for a loss or hardship

- ☑ **Syn.** assuagement, alleviation
- ★ **Ant.** aggravation, intensification
- ✗ The millions she inherited provided little consolation to the grief-stricken widow.

CONSOLIDATE

to combine, strengthen

- ☑ **Syn.** amalgamate, fortify
- ★ **Ant.** shatter, fragment
- ✗ The author consolidated various articles into one book.

CONSONANCE N.

harmony, agreement, concord

- ✗ There must be consonance among all departments for the overall success of the company.

CONSORT N., V.

a companion or partner, a group or a company; to keep company, unite or associate

- ☑ **Syn.** conform, harmonise, associate
- ☒ The queen governed in consort with her advisers.
- ☒ A politician in Bihar is known to consort with gangsters.

CONSTERNATION N.

worry, concern, dismay, astonishment

- ☑ **Syn.** disquiet, alarm, anxiety
- ★ **Ant.** composure, equanimity
- ☒ The entire nation looked on in consternation as the twin towers collapsed.

CONSTITUENT

component, part, citizen, voter

- ☑ **Syn.** elemental, essential
- ★ **Ant.** aggregate, composite
- ☒ The leader was voted out of power as his constituents were unhappy with his work.

CONSTRAINED

forced, compelled, confined, restrained

- ☑ **Syn.** obligated, coerced
- ★ **Ant.** allowed, permitted
- ☒ The writer, constrained by the limitations his editor imposed upon him, had to cut 200 pages from his book.

CONSTRAINT

something that forces or compels, something that restrains or confines

- ☑ **Syn.** compulsion, captivity
- ★ **Ant.** release, liberty
- ☒ The madman was chained, but this constraint was insufficient to prevent him from injuring five persons.

CONSTRUE

to understand or interpret

- ☑ **Syn.** decipher, explicate
- ★ **Ant.** confuse, obfuscate
- ☒ She wasn't sure how to construe his remark but decided to consider it a compliment, for the sake of peace.

CONSUL N.

an official agent of a govt. appointed in a foreign land to take care of its citizens' interests

- ☑ **Syn.** diplomat, ambassador
- ☒ The newly appointed consul was soon beleaguered by problems.

CONSUMMATE Adj., V.**CONSUMMATION** N.

supreme, complete, perfect, of the highest quality and order, accomplished, skilled

- ☑ **Syn.** carry out, achieve, expert
- ☒ Michelangelo was a consummate artist.
- ☒ Michelle consummated the business deal quickly and left for Paris.

CONTEMPLATIVE Adj. **CONTEMPLATE** V. **CONTEMPLATION** N.

deep in thought, meditative, musing, pensive

- ☑ **Syn.** pensive, reflective, introspective
- ☒ The contemplative mood of the investors is wreaking havoc on BSE.
- ☒ Deepak sought further information in contemplation of a career change.

CONTEND

to battle, clash, compete

- ☑ **Syn.** confront, dispute
- ★ **Ant.** retreat, harmonise
- ☒ No boxer, past or present, would have been able to contend with Muhammad Ali in his prime.

CONTENTIOUS

quarrelsome, disagreeable

- ☑ **Syn.** belligerent, bellicose
- ★ **Ant.** amiable, affable
- ☒ The contentious gentleman in the bar angrily ridiculed whatever anyone said.

CONTINENCE N.

voluntarily refraining from sexual intercourse, voluntary control over urinary and fecal discharge

- ☒ In the epic Mahabharat, Bhishma vowed to lead a life of celibacy and continence.
- ☒ As men age, prostate problems can cause loss of urinary continence.

CONTINGENT Adj., N. **CONTINGENCY** N.

likely but not certain to happen, an unforeseen eventuality; fortuitousness

- ☑ **Syn.** emergency, incident, possibility
- ☒ The contingencies of life test one's mettle.
- ☒ The Indian contingent for the Olympics arrived in Rome today.

CONTORT V., **CONTORTION** N.

to twist in a violent manner

- ☑ **Syn.** warp, deform
- ☒ Even under anaesthesia, her contorted face revealed the pain she was enduring.

CONTOUR N.

outline, general character or aspect

- ☑ **Syn.** curve, line, form, outline, shape
- ☒ He studied the contour of her face, silhouetted against the darkening sky.

CONTRABAND Adj.

prohibited by law, excluded by law

- ☑ **Syn.** illegal imports
- ☒ The economic reforms led to a drop in contraband trade in India.

CONTRAVENTE

to contradict, deny, act contrary to

- ☑ **Syn.** abjure, conflict
- ★ **Ant.** agree, approve
- ✗ The watchman contravened his official instructions by leaving his post unmanned for an hour.

CONTRITE Adj.

brokenhearted for sin, penitent, sorry, apologetic, sorrowful, regretful

- ☑ **Syn.** remorseful, repentant, penitent
- ★ **Ant.** unapologetic, shameless
- ✗ Her set, contrite face told him more about her misery than words could have expressed.

CONTRIVE V., CONTRIVANCE N.

to plan, invent, to bring about, arrange, plot

- ☑ **Syn.** engineer, plan, plot, scheme
- ✗ It is believed that ISI contrived with the militants to bring about the Charar-e-Sharif disaster.

CONTUMACIOUS Adj. **CONTUMELY** N.

obstinate, scornful, stubborn; scornful insolence

- ✗ The contumacious ways of Khrushchev and Brezhnev have contributed much to Russia's present economic condition.
- ✗ He was patient for long but the last contumely was too much to bear and he retaliated in kind.

CONUNDRUM N.

any puzzling question, a riddle

- ☑ **Syn.** enigma, quandary
- ✗ The conundrum of falling rupee has been worrying the finance ministry for long.

CONVENE

to meet, come together, assemble

- ☑ **Syn.** congregate, convoke
- ★ **Ant.** disperse, scatter
- ✗ The members of the board convene at least once a week.

CONVENTIONAL

typical, commonplace

- ☑ **Syn.** customary, orthodox
- ★ **Ant.** unorthodox, bohemian
- ✗ Conventional wisdom today says that a good job requires a college education.

CONVEX

curved outward

- ☑ **Syn.** protuberant, cambered
- ★ **Ant.** concave, incurvate
- ✗ The convex shape of his pot belly contrasted sharply with his wife's taut and flat stomach.

CONVICT N., V.

criminal, culprit, felon, to find or prove to be guilty

- ☑ **Syn.** offender, prisoner, condemn
- ✗ The mixing of hardened convicts with juvenile offenders is not a good idea.
- ✗ Hiren Thakur was convicted for murdering his wife.

CONVIVIAL Adj.

social, jovial, gregarious, lively, spirited, congenial

- ☑ **Syn.** welcoming, warm, cordial
- ★ **Ant.** unfriendly, aloof, distant, surly
- ✗ Many an executive owes his promotion to convivial spouses.

CONVOLUTED

twisted, complicated, involved

- ☑ **Syn.** serpentine, tangled
- ★ **Ant.** straight forward, simple
- ✗ Although many people bought 'A Brief History of Time', very few could follow its convoluted ideas and theories.

COPIOUS Adj.

sufficient, lavish, abundant, plentiful

- ☑ **Syn.** profuse, bountiful, numerous
- ★ **Ant.** a few, a couple, a handful, some
- ✗ I took copious notes so that I would have enough material for my term paper.

COQUETTE (KOKET) N. COQUETTISH Adj.

a flirting woman

- ✗ A coquette brings fun to life and brings ulcers as wife.
- ✗ The coquettish smile on Deepali's face indicates that she's only having fun with Rituraj.

CORDON V. (usually used with *off*), N.

to form a cordon around (an area) so as to prevent movement in or out

- ✗ The troops cordoned off the road leading to the president's palace.

CORNUCOPIA N.

An overflowing store; an abundance

- ✗ A cornucopia of employment opportunities exists in metropolitan cities.

CORONER N.

an officer who inquires into accidental or suspicious deaths

- ✗ In many a murder case only the coroner's report is crucial.

CORPOREAL Adj.

something physical or concrete, tangible, material, substantial

- ☑ **Syn.** bodily, animal
- ★ **Ant.** cerebral, psychological
- ✗ The spiritual rewards of success far outweigh the corporeal ones.
- ✗ His corporeal needs were few – food and physical comforts meant nothing to him.

CORPULENT Adj., **CORPULENCE** N.

very fat, obese, chubby

- ☑ **Syn.** fleshy, rotund, plump, podgy
- ★ **Ant.** slim, thin, slender, slight, wiry
- ✗ The police commissioner has decided not to put up with corpulent men among officers.

CORRELATION

association, relationship between two or more things

- ☑ **Syn.** connection, association
- ⌘ All too often, there is little correlation between a man's wealth and his intelligence.

CORROBORATE V., CORROBORATOR N.

to confirm, to make more certain, to ratify, to support

- ☑ **Syn.** agree with, substantiate, uphold
- ★ **Ant.** contradict, gainsay, challenge
- ⌘ It is one thing to accuse, another to corroborate it.

CORRUGATE V.

to wrinkle or draw into folds

- ⌘ Time corrugates the most beautiful of faces.

COSMETIC

relating to beauty, affecting the surface of something

- ☑ **Syn.** beautifying, superficial
- ★ **Ant.** fundamental, structural
- ⌘ Cosmetic surgery such as a nose job is generally not covered by insurance.

COSMOPOLITAN

belonging to all the world, sophisticated, free from local prejudices

- ☑ **Syn.** international, multiracial
- ★ **Ant.** provincial, unsophisticated
- ⌘ What the world needs today is a cosmopolitan outlook rather than narrow racial groupings.

COTERIE N.

a social, literary or politically exclusive circle, clique, a distinct group of people with common interests, faction

- ⌘ Many of the political blunders of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi are now attributed to his coterie.

COUNTENANCE N., V.

appearance, especially the expression on the face; to give approval to, tolerate

- ⌘ The question left him with a puzzled countenance.
- ⌘ The Governess refused to countenance Shilpi's insolence.

CULL V., N.

to pick out from others; select, to remove rejected members or parts from (a herd, for example)

- ⌘ This author has culled the best questions from various books and compiled them into a new exercise book.

CULVERT N.

a transverse and totally enclosed drain under a road or railway

- ⌘ The road contact with Shimla was lost as the culverts alongway were overflowing.

COUNTERMAND V.

to give an order cancelling the previous one, to revoke

- ☑ **Syn.** cancel, stop, annul, retract
- ⌘ The supreme court has the authority to countermand a decision of the lower courts.

COUP (KOO) N.

a master stroke, a sudden blow or stroke

- ☑ **Syn.** overthrow, revolution, takeover
- ⌘ The politics of coups is the bane of infant democracies of Africa.
- ⌘ The company pulled off a coup when the product launch party was graced by the prime minister himself.

COUPE N.

a carriage with seating arrangements; a car with a fixed roof, two doors and usually a sloping back

- ☑ **Syn.** car, auto, vehicle, sports car
- ⌘ I had reserved a coupe in the train.

COVENANT N.

a mutual agreement

- ☑ **Syn.** contract, treaty, promise, pledge
- ⌘ The covenants of law ought to be respected for sake of social order and harmony.

COVERT Adj.

covered, concealed, secret, hidden

- ☑ **Syn.** clandestine, stealthy, veiled
- ★ **Ant.** open, unlock, unbolt, exposed
- ⌘ The murdered soldier belonged to an army unit which specialises in covert operations.

COVET V., COVETOUS Adj.

to wish for enviously; very desirous of something, avaricious, greedy

- ☑ **Syn.** envious, jealous
- ⌘ The covetous politician can hardly formulate a long-term policy of growth and development.
- ⌘ My daughters are very competitive and covet each other's jobs.

COWER V.

to sink due to fear, to crouch shrinkingly, to cringe in fear

- ☑ **Syn.** cringe, tremble, recoil, shy away
- ⌘ The most corrupt politician cowers at the mere mention of a public interest litigation against him.

COY Adj., COYLY Adv.

marked by cute, coquettish, or artful playfulness

- ☑ **Syn.** bashful, timid, modest, demure
- ★ **Ant.** bold, shameless, audacious
- ⌘ There is often strong emotional maturity behind the coy demeanour of a woman.
- ⌘ Geetika acted coyly when we asked her about her fiancé.

CRASS Adj.

very unrefined, grossly insensible

- ☑ **Syn.** tactless, stupid, inane, ridiculous
- ★ **Ant.** sensitive, receptive, perceptive
- ⌘ Crass consumerism has affected the elite most.
- ⌘ He made crass comments about her worn-out dress even though he knew she couldn't afford to buy any more clothes.

CRAVEN

cowardly, lily-livered

- ☑ **Syn.** faint-hearted, timid
- * **Ant.** brave, courageous
- ✗ The craven lion looked funny, cringing in a corner, away from the mouse.

CRAVING N.

desire, hunger, longing, lust

- ☑ **Syn.** passion, thirst, yearning, yen
- * **Ant.** hatred, aversion, dislike
- ✗ Sometimes Neeta has a craving for chocolates.

CREDIBLE Adj., CREDIBILITY N.

which may be believed

- ☑ **Syn.** convincing, plausible
- * **Ant.** incredible, enormous
- ✗ They haven't produced any credible policies for improving the situation.
- ✗ The company lost credibility in the market after it was fined for evading taxes.

CREDITABLE Adj.

praiseworthy, trustworthy

- ☑ **Syn.** good, worthy, laudable
- * **Ant.** poor, deprived, reduced, pitiable
- ✗ Pele's performance as a football player had been creditable.

CREDULOUS

gullible, trusting

- ☑ **Syn.** naive, ingenuous
- * **Ant.** worldly-wise, suspicious
- ✗ Although small children believe in the Easter Bunny, only the most credulous teenagers do so.

CREED

statement of belief or principle

- ☑ **Syn.** doctrine, dogma, faith
- ✗ It was part of the old man's creed to cook his own food.

CREME DE LA CREME (French)

the best of the elite, the very best

- ✗ The creme de la creme of society were present at the classical music concert.
- ✗ When it came to winning quiz contests, our class was considered the creme de la creme.

CRESCENDO N.

a gradual increase in the intensity of a thing

- ☑ **Syn.** upsurge, swelling, loudening
- ✗ The demand for reservation of 33 per cent seats of Indian Parliament for women is now reaching a crescendo.

CRESTFALLEN Adj.

dejected, dispirited

- ☑ **Syn.** disappointed, down, sad
- * **Ant.** cheerful, happy, jovial, merry
- ✗ Saurav strode confidently out on to the pitch but returned crestfallen a few minutes later, with a score of only two runs.

CREVICE N.

an opening crack, fissure, clink, division

- ☑ **Syn.** gap, cleft, fracture, cranny
- ✗ The harsh light revealed every crevice and wrinkle on his face.

CRINGE V.

shrink back, as if in fear

- ☑ **Syn.** recoil, wince, shy away, cower
- ✗ We all cringed at her ribald jokes.

CRITERION

standard for judging, rule for testing

- ☑ **Syn.** benchmark, yardstick
- ✗ Only recently has intelligence become an important criterion in judging beauty pageants.

CROTCHET N., CROTCHETY Adj.

a fancy, a whim, an eccentricity

- ✗ The facade of a crotchety old man stood Hercules Poirot, the detective, in good stead.

CRUCIFY V., CRUCIFIXION N.

to put to death on a cross, to torment, to subdue

- ✗ Humanity has always crucified its great only to venerate them later on.
- ✗ Calgary is the site just outside Jerusalem where the crucifixion of Christ took place.

CRUMPLE V.

to crush into irregular wrinkles

- ☑ **Syn.** crease, crinkle, crush, screw up
- * **Ant.** smooth, flat, level, even, soft
- ✗ Sylvie crumpled up the letter and threw it in the bin.

CRYOGENICS N.

branch of Physics dealing with very low temperature phenomena

- ✗ Indians were surprised at Russia's reluctance to share the Cryogenic engine technology with them.

CRYPTIC Adj.

hidden, mysteriously obscure, secret, unseen

- ☑ **Syn.** puzzling, baffling
- * **Ant.** exoteric, easy
- ✗ Archaeologists have deciphered the most cryptic of all ancient languages.

CUISINE – characteristic style of cooking

- ☑ **Syn.** cookery
- ✗ The Mexican cuisine is spicy and tangy.

CUL-DE-SAC N.

a blind alley, a trap

- ☑ **Syn.** dead end, blind alley
- ✗ Beware! Your reckless ambition may lead you to a cul-de-sac.

CULINARY Adj.

pertaining to the kitchen or cookery

- ☑ **Syn.** cooking, gastronomic
- ⌘ The culinary expertise of the chef made him pricey.

CULMINATE V., **CULMINATION** N.

to reach the highest point

- ☑ **Syn.** end, terminate, conclude, finish
- ★ **Ant.** start, create, found, establish
- ⌘ Their many years of research have finally culminated in a cure for Hepatitis B.

CULPABLE Adj.

criminal, faulty, censurable, reproachable

- ☑ **Syn.** guilty, blameworthy, liable
- ★ **Ant.** innocent, guiltless, naive, pure
- ⌘ Sheltering a criminal is a culpable offence.

CULPRIT

guilty person

- ☑ **Syn.** miscreant, offender
- ⌘ The police caught the culprit right outside the bakery, eating the stolen doughnut.

CULT N.

an unorthodox or false religion, a fad, excessive admiration of an idea

- ☑ **Syn.** sect, party, trendy, craze
- ⌘ The Osho cult still has a tremendous following.

CUMULATIVE Adj., **CUMULATE** V., **CUMULATION** N.

growing by addition

- ☑ **Syn.** increasing, snowballing, swelling
- ⌘ Growing rich is a cumulative process, wise and regular investments bring in compounded benefits.

CUPIDITY N.

covetousness, greed, avarice

- ☑ **Syn.** selfishness, meanness, avidity
- ⌘ His success in business is largely due to his cupidity.

CURATOR

caretaker and overseer of an exhibition, especially in a museum

- ⌘ The curator resigned when he could no longer bear begging for donations to keep the museum open.

CURSORY

hastily done, superficial

- ☑ **Syn.** perfunctory, rapid
- ★ **Ant.** thorough, painstaking
- ⌘ The copy editor gave the article a cursory glance, missing dozens of errors.

CURTAIL

to shorten, diminish

- ☑ **Syn.** reduce, pare
- ★ **Ant.** increase, lengthen
- ⌘ I had to curtail my vacation because I ran out of money.

CUTLERY

cutting instruments, tableware

- ⌘ The restaurant was notorious for not washing its cutlery properly.

CYNICAL Adj., **CYNIC** N.

misanthropic, disbelieving, distrustful, sceptical

- ☑ **Syn.** pessimistic, mocking, sarcastic
- ⌘ Modern youth tends to be cynical.
- ⌘ I've always abhorred cynics in my team because they demoralise everyone.

CYNOSURE N.

the focal point or centre of attraction

- ⌘ Media plays a very big role in making a Kalpana Chawla or a Diana Hayden the cynosure of all eyes.

Anthropology

The following are 10 words that are related to the topic mentioned above.

ANDROID	:	a robot with a human appearance
BIBELOT	:	a small item of rarity, beauty, or curiosity, relic; artifact
CONSANGUINITY	:	relationship by blood
MIDDEN	:	a dunghill or refuse heap
NOMAD	:	a person who moves about in a seasonal pattern, especially in search of work and usually without a fixed home
PETROGLYPH	:	a prehistoric carving or drawing on stone
RITE	:	a formal ceremonial act or procedure, often part of solemn religious occasions
SHIBBOLETH	:	a custom, principle or belief distinguishing a particular class or group of people.
TOTEM	:	an object of animal with which a tribe, clan or group of people identity in its rituals
VENDETTA	:	a private feud in which kin are obliged to seek revenge for wrongs done to relatives