

“O”

OAF N.

stupid, awkward person

☑ **Syn.** lout, boor, barbarian

★ **Ant.** civilised, sophisticated, intelligent

☒ The servant was so used to being called a clumsy oaf that he almost stopped responding to his real name.

OBDURATE Adj.

hardened in heart and feelings

☑ **Syn.** obstinate, stubborn, tenacious

★ **Ant.** meek, flexible, faltering

☒ The President remains obdurate on the question of cutting taxes.

OBEISANCE N.

an act of reverence, a bow

☑ **Syn.** bob, bend, curtsy

☒ The noblemen came forward one by one and made their obeisance before the queen.

OBFUSCATE V.

to darken, obscure, confuse

☑ **Syn.** confuse, conceal, disguise

★ **Ant.** clarify, make clear, simplify

☒ She was criticised for using arguments that obfuscated the main issue.

OBLIQUE – indirect, evasive, misleading, devious

☑ **Syn.** slanting, sloping

★ **Ant.** straight, direct

☒ Usually open and friendly, Ashok has been behaving in a curiously oblique manner lately.

OBLITERATE V.

to blot out, to efface, raze, annihilate, terminate

☑ **Syn.** nullify, quash, wipe out

★ **Ant.** validate, authorise, confirm

☒ Obliterate your own weaknesses before you point a finger another.

OBLIVION N. OBLIVIOUS Adj.

the condition of being forgotten, exile, emptiness; inattentive, unmindful

☑ **Syn.** forgetfulness, stupor,

★ **Ant.** awareness, alertness

☒ After all that she went through she welcomed the great oblivion of sleep.

☒ He was oblivious to the danger around him.

OBLOQUY N.

slander, disgrace, infamy

☑ **Syn.** humiliation, disgrace, misery

★ **Ant.** honour, credit, tribute

☒ Regardless of the provocation, the obloquy on her character was in bad taste.

OBNOXIOUS Adj.

offensive, objectionable

☑ **Syn.** hateful, abhorrent, unbearable

★ **Ant.** nice, good, find

☒ Obnoxious effluents from the industries have polluted all our rivers.

OBSCENITY N. filthiness, perversion; indecent act or word

☒ Obscenity is a relative term.

☒ A woman shouted obscenities at the speaker.

OBSCURE Adj., V

not distinct, make unclear

☑ **Syn.** concealed, undistinguished

★ **Ant.** obvious, distinct, noticeable

☒ The teacher's explanation was so obscure that the students were forced to approach another tutor.

OBSEQUIIOUS Adj.

sycophantic, excessively servile

☑ **Syn.** flattering, toadying, submissive

★ **Ant.** assertive, forceful, confident

☒ The young employee decided to adopt an obsequious approach to win a promotion.

Mini Revision Test

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

1. nihilism
2. nominal
3. noxious
4. nuance
5. obdurate

- a. in name only
- b. subtle difference
- c. belief in the absence of all values and morals
- d. stubborn
- e. harmful

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

OBSESSED Adj. , **OBSESSION**

consumed, dominated; fixed idea

☑ **Syn.** gripped, fixed, passionate

★ **Ant.** uninterested, indifferent, aloof

✍ The government seems obsessed by the need for secrecy.

OBSESSIVE – preoccupying, all-consuming

☑ **Syn.** addictive, fanatical

★ **Ant.** balanced, practical

✍ Shyam is obsessive about his work; he never leaves the office before 10 at night.

OBSOLETE Adj.

out of use, outdated, antiquated, archaic

☑ **Syn.** out of date, outdated, past it

★ **Ant.** up-to-date, new, advance

✍ The obsolete ideas of the clergy are the biggest obstacles facing the women of the world.

OBSTETRICIAN N.

physician specialising in the delivery of children

✍ An obstetrician has special training in caring for pregnant women and in helping with childbirth.

OBSTINATE Adj.

dogged, immovable, persistent, stubborn, adamant

☑ **Syn.** fixed, adamant, persistent

★ **Ant.** compliant, obedient, amenable

✍ There is a thin line between being determined and being obstinate.

OBSTREPEROUS Adj.

noisy, clamorous, unruly, boisterous

☑ **Syn.** hostile, defiant, sullen

★ **Ant.** cheerful, joyful, in good spirits

✍ The shop announced heavy discounts but failed to placate its obstreperous customers as the goods were sold out within an hour.

OBTRUDE V. **OBTRUSION** N.

become noticeable in an unwelcome or intrusive way

✍ The sound of the boisterous laughter obtruded the silence of the temple.

OBTRUSIVE – pushy, too conspicuous

☑ **Syn.** noticeable, prominent

★ **Ant.** unobtrusive, inconspicuous

✍ I think that huge portrait that you hung in the hall is a bit obtrusive.

OBTUSE Adj.

blunt, dull, insensitive

☑ **Syn.** dull-witted, thick, slow

★ **Ant.** intelligent, able, quick

✍ Media always hype up the obtuse statements of controversial authorities.

OBVIATE V.

to eliminate a difficulty

☑ **Syn.** prevent, hinder, avert

★ **Ant.** permit, let, sanction

✍ A peaceful solution would obviate the need to send a UN military force.

OCCLUDE V. , **OCCLUSION** N.

shut, close

✍ Prejudice and bigotry occluded reason and common sense as the riots raged on.

OCCIDENT N.

the west

✍ Globalisation have blended the cultures of the occident and the orient.

OCCULT Adj.

secret, hidden, esoteric

✍ She claims to have occult powers, given to her by some mysterious spirit.

OCULAR Adj. **OCULIST** N.

pertaining to the eye, optical, visual; physician who specialises in the treatment of the eyes

☑ **Syn.** visual, optical

✍ An ocular operation can correct the vision of a person.

✍ An oculist is required to have a degree in ophthalmology.

ODIOUS Adj. **ODIUM** N.

monstrous, disgraceful, atrocious; detestation

☑ **Syn.** hateful, loathsome, repulsive

★ **Ant.** pleasant, amiable, charming

☒ Henry Bavington plays the part of Mr. Grimes, the odious headmaster.

☒ His trial has led to widespread public odium.

ODYSSEY N.

a long trip, a trip fraught with dangers

☒ The film follows one man's odyssey to find his mother from whom he was separated at birth.

OFFICIOUS Adj.

interfering, meddlesome

☑ **Syn.** bossy, fussy, intrusive

★ **Ant.** submissive, docile, passive

☒ He's an officious little man and widely disliked in the company.

OFFSHOOT – branch

☑ **Syn.** side shoot, tendril

★ **Ant.** trunk, bole

☒ The company encouraged the growth of the small spare parts shops as offshoots of the main factory.

OGLE V.

to look at fondly, amorously

☑ **Syn.** look at, stare at, gaze at

☒ His riches made people ogle at his balance sheet.

OLIGARCHY N.

government by a few, rule of elite

☒ Do you think oligarchy is preferable to dictatorship?

OMINOUS Adj.

threatening, sinister, impending

☑ **Syn.** gloomy, menacing, warning

★ **Ant.** reassuring, supportive, cheering

☒ There was an ominous silence when I asked for the renewal of my contract.

OMNIPOTENT Adj.

all-powerful, invincible

☑ **Syn.** all-powerful, invincible, supreme

★ **Ant.** powerless, toothless, immobilised

☒ Even the omnipotent Hitler was finally defeated.

OMNISCIENT – having infinite knowledge, all-seeing

☑ **Syn.** all-knowing, all-wise

★ **Ant.** ignorant, illiterate

☒ Christians believe that because God is omniscient, they cannot hide their sins from Him.

OMNIVOROUS – eating everything, absorbing everything

☑ **Syn.** indiscriminate, indiscriminating

★ **Ant.** discriminate, selective

☒ She is an omnivorous reader, covering everything from comics to Premchand.

ONEROUS Adj.

burdensome, oppressive

☑ **Syn.** arduous, heavy, difficult

★ **Ant.** easy, , simple, painless

☒ To achieve 100 percent literacy is an onerous task.

ONOMATOPOEIA N.

words that sound like the noises they refer to.

☒ "Hiss", "buzz" and "squelch" are onomatopoeic words.

ONUS N.

burden, responsibility

☑ **Syn.** responsibility, burden, duty

☒ The onus lies with the customer to check every detail before signing any contract.

OPALESCENT – iridescent, displaying colours

☑ **Syn.** multicoloured, prismatic

☒ The infant, fascinated by the opalescent stone, stared at it for hours on end.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. officious | a. misleadingly apparent |
| 2. onerous | b. impossible to see through |
| 3. opaque | c. annoyingly helpful |
| 4. ostensible | d. showing off |
| 5. ostentatious | e. burdensome |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

OPAQUE – impervious to light, difficult to understand

- ☑ **Syn.** non-transparent, obscure
- ★ **Ant.** transparent, translucent
- 🗒 The heavy buildup of dirt and grime made the car windows almost opaque.

OPINE – to express an opinion

- ☑ **Syn.** think, suggest
- 🗒 The rude participant in the show opined that the guest was a pathetic excuse for a human being.

OPPORTUNE Adj.

very right or fit

- ☑ **Syn.** fitting, apt, right
- ★ **Ant.** inappropriate, wrong, unsuitable
- 🗒 Be prepared to grab the opportune moment.

OPPORTUNIST – one who takes advantage of circumstances

- 🗒 Dozens of opportunists travelled to the earthquake-struck region to sell food and water to the victims.

OPPROBRIOUS – disgraceful, contemptuous

- ☑ **Syn.** abusive, scornful
- ★ **Ant.** laudatory, praising
- 🗒 Despite his opprobrious addiction to gambling, the governor was re-elected.

OPPROBRIUM N.

disgrace, infamy, ignominy

- ☑ **Syn.** abuse, vituperation, condemnation
- Ant.** praise, accolade, encomium
- 🗒 The international community heaped opprobrium on the country after its unprovoked invasion of its neighbour.

OPULENT Adj. **OPULENCE** N.

- wealthy, extravagant, cornucopian, luxurious; extreme wealth, luxuriousness, abundance
- ☑ **Syn.** rich, well-to-do
 - ★ **Ant.** poor, impoverished, destitute
 - 🗒 There is great irony in the opulent lifestyle of the so-called godmen.

ORACLE – person who foresees the future and gives advice

- ☑ **Syn.** prophet, fortune teller
- 🗒 Omar decided to consult an oracle when he could not make the decision on his own.

ORATOR – lecturer, speaker

- 🗒 The new professor's dull tone of voice and lack of energy make him a particularly poor orator.

ORACULAR Adj.

prophetic, hard to interpret, enigmatic

- ☑ **Syn.** predictive, prescient, prognostic
- 🗒 The saint spoke in an oracular tone.

ORB – spherical body, eye

- ☑ **Syn.** spheroid, globe
- ★ **Ant.** non-spherical, polygonal
- 🗒 Paramjeet sighed at the sight of the lantern orbs glowing like small moons above the tables in the restaurant.

ORCHESTRATE – to arrange music for performance, to coordinate

- ☑ **Syn.** to arrange, to organise
- ★ **Ant.** to disorganise, to usurp
- 🗒 Though the president took all the credit, it was his wife who had actually orchestrated the entire event.

ORDAIN V.

decree, manage, conduct

- 🗒 The council, in its wisdom, has ordained that all the local libraries will remain closed on Mondays.

ORDEAL N.

labour, nightmare, torment, tribulation

- 🗒 Travel by bus or train in India is really an ordeal.

ORGY N.

wild, drunken revelry; unrestrained indulgence

- ☑ **Syn.** debauch, carousal, carouse
- 🗒 It was a night of wild orgy for them.

ORIENT Adj.

rising, as the sun, Eastern

- 🗒 The lore of the orient constantly attracts Western tourists.

ORNATE Adj.

elaborate, florid, showy, decorated

- 🗒 The gates at the marriage reception *pandals* these days are ornate and gaudy.

ORNITHOLOGY N. , **ORNITHOLOGIST** N.

study of birds; scientific student of birds

- 🗒 Dr. Salim Ali was a famous ornithologist.
- 🗒 Bird watching is just a small activity under the discipline of ornithology.

ORTHOGRAPHY N.

correct spelling

- 🗒 Until and unless you master English orthography, you cannot hope to be a good writer.

OSCILLATE – to move back and forth

- ☑ **Syn.** sway, swing
- ★ **Ant.** remain steady, be sedentary
- 🗒 The ancient oscillating fans did little to cool down the room.

OSSEOUS Adj. **OSSIFY** V.

made of bone, bony; change or harden into bone

- 🗒 The creature appeared to be osseous, yet very fluid in its movements.

OSTENTATION N. OSTENTATIOUSNESS Adj.

act of showing, boasting; showy

☑ **Syn.** pretension, display, affectation

★ **Ant.** modesty, diffidence, reserve

⌘ Ostentation can only evoke envy not friendship.

⌘ The ostentatious lifestyles of Bollywood stars evoke much interest among the public.

OSTENSIBLE Adj.

outwardly showing, apparent, likely

☑ **Syn.** apparent, suppose, seeming

★ **Ant.** real, actual, true, valid

⌘ He visited Pakistan ostensibly to visit his brother.

OSTRACISE V.

to boycott socially

☑ **Syn.** exclude, banish, shun

★ **Ant.** include, take in, contain

⌘ For centuries, lepers were ostracised by society and banished to remote colonies.

OUST V.

expel, drive out

☑ **Syn.** expel, throw out, exile

★ **Ant.** appoint, employ, hire, sign up

⌘ He has been ousted from the company for no mistake of his.

OUSTER – expulsion, ejection

☑ **Syn.** banishment, debarment

★ **Ant.** including, welcoming

⌘ After his insane behaviour at the meeting, the chairman faced ouster by his fellow board members.

OUTLANDISH Adj.

bizarre, peculiar, unconventional

☑ **Syn.** peculiar, strange, odd

★ **Ant.** run of the mill, average

⌘ Looking even further into the future, he expected designers to experiment with even more outlandish ideas.

OUTRAGEOUS Adj.

atrocious, barbaric, infamous, monstrous

☑ **Syn.** shameful, shocking, offensive

★ **Ant.** commendable, worthy, admirable

⌘ It is outrageous that these buildings remain empty while thousands of people have no homes.

OVATION N.

applause, enthusiastic reception

☑ **Syn.** acclaim, applause, praise

★ **Ant.** jeering, mocking, hissing

⌘ The royal ballet received a thunderous ovation when they performed here two months ago.

OVERT Adj.

open to view

☑ **Syn.** open, clear, plain, evident

★ **Ant.** hidden, unseen, unknown

⌘ His overt life showed him to be a very respectable and kind man.

OVERSTATE – to embellish, exaggerate

☑ **Syn.** over-dramatise, over-emphasise

★ **Ant.** understate, play down

⌘ I do not want to overstate this, but I need you to understand the seriousness of the situation.

Linguistics

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

ASSONANCE	: repetition of sounds, especially vowel sounds, in a word or phrase
DIALECTOLOGY	: branch of linguistics concerned with dialects
ELOCATIVE	: causing an emotional reaction in the listener (or reader)
INTONATION	: the melodic pattern produced by the variation in pitch of the voice during speech
LOCUTION	: any utterance, expression, or phrase
PERORATION	: the concluding part of a public address or speech (especially, summing up and recapitulating key points and /or exhorting and uplifting the audience)
PHONETIC	: based on sounds (e.g, th phonetic spelling of a word)
REBUS	: the representation of a word by pictures or symbols
SEMANTIC	: involving signs (especially, words) and the things (ideas) they are intended to signify
SYNTAX	: construction of a sentence; arrangement of words in a sentence.