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SABOTAGE N.

malicious and deliberate destruction

- ☑ **Syn.** damage, disrupt, impair, harm
- ☒ They suspect sabotage to be the cause of accident.

SACRILEGIOUS Adj.

lack of deference, respect or reverence for anything sacred or special

- ☑ **Syn.** blasphemous, heretical, desecrating
- * **Ant.** reverent, deferential
- ☒ The clerics banned the book stating that it was sacrilegious and downright trash.

SACROSANCT Adj.

very sacred, pure, consecrated

- ☑ **Syn.** sacred, revered, holy
- ☒ The head priest refused to allow any change in the ritual, stating that it was too sacrosanct.

SADISM N. **SADISTIC** Adj.

pleasure derived from being cruel; inclined to cruelty

- ☑ **Syn.** aggression, fighting, hostility
- ☒ The sadism of Hitler is history.

SAGACITY N. **SAGACIOUS** Adj.

wisdom and discernment; keen perception, shrewdness

- ☑ **Syn.** shrewdness, wisdom, prudence
- * **Ant.** foolishness, stupidity, idiocy
- ☒ We admired our grandmother's sagacity and often asked for her advice and opinion.

SALACIOUS Adj.

erotic, obscene, lascivious

- ☑ **Syn.** scandalous, spicy, exciting
- ☒ Salacious literature ought to stay out of the reach of youngsters.

SALIENT Adj.

prominent

- ☑ **Syn.** outstanding, relevant, significant
- * **Ant.** minor, slight, small, negligent
- ☒ Our constitution draws on the salient features of the constitutions of many countries.

SALUBRIOUS Adj.

healthy

- ☑ **Syn.** wholesome, respectable, decent
- * **Ant.** unhealthy, unpleasant
- ☒ Taking a walk after your dinner is salubrious.

SALUTARY Adj.

tending to improve, beneficial

- ☑ **Syn.** helpful, useful, valuable
- * **Ant.** unwelcome, irrelevant
- ☒ The community service programmes have a salutary effect on young offenders and help them rejoin the mainstream.

SAMARITAN N.

person who helps someone in trouble; member of the Samaritans

- ☒ As stress levels increase the world needs more and more good Samaritans.

SANCTIMONIOUS Adj.

displaying ostentatious or hypocritical devoutness

- ☑ **Syn.** smug, pious, self-righteous
- ☒ It is nothing but sanctimonious behaviour when the ex-convict pledged honesty.

SANCTUARY

haven, retreat

- ☑ **Syn.** shrine, altar
- ☒ He was given sanctuary in the US Embassy in Beijing.

SANGUINE Adj.

confident, optimistic

- ☑ **Syn.** cheerful, hopeful, positive
- * **Ant.** doubtful, uncertain
- ☒ He's sanguine about getting the work finished on time.

SARCASM N. **Sarcastic** Adj.

scornful remarks; stinging rebuke

- ☑ **Syn.** irony, mockery, derision
- ☒ Sarcasm will never win you friends, only enemies.

SARDONIC Adj.

scornful, cynical, mocking, sarcastic

- ☑ **Syn.** sarcastic, derisive, scathing
- ☒ He wears a permanent sardonic grin that keeps people away.

SARTORIAL Adj.

referring to clothes (especially of men) or tailoring

- ☒ He was renowned for his sartorial elegance.

SATE V.

satisfy to the full; cloy

- ☑ **Syn.** satisfy, fill, quench, slake
- * **Ant.** starve, deprive, dissatisfy
- ☒ The boy slept with a sated look on his face, after its first full meal in days.

SATIATE V. SATIETY N.

surfeit; satisfy fully

- ☑ **Syn.** satisfy, fill, sate, slake
- ☒ I was so hungry that it took three plates of food to satiate me.

SATIRE N. , SATIRICAL Adj.

form of literature in which irony, sarcasm and ridicule are employed to attack vice and folly

- ☑ **Syn.** send up, spoof, lampoon
- ☒ It was a wonderful satire that somehow managed to get past the censors and gave its audience a rare chance to laugh at the dictator.

SAVOURY

agreeable in taste or smell

- ☑ **Syn.** delectable, tangy
- * **Ant.** unappetising, unpalatable
- ☒ The banquet guests consumed the savoury treats with pleasure.

SCAMPER N.

run, gallop, scurry, sprint

- ☑ **Syn.** scuttle, hurry
- ☒ The deer went scampering on sighting a lion.

SCAPEGOAT N.

person who carries the blame for someone else

- ☑ **Syn.** victim, whipping boy
- ☒ The captain became a scapegoat for the team's failure to win the cup that year.

SCATHING Adj.

harsh or severe to an extreme; strongly critical

- ☑ **Syn.** scornful, mocking, derisive
- * **Ant.** complimentary, flattering
- ☒ Mohan wrote a scathing editorial for our school newspaper attacking those who polluted our local waterways.

SCAVENGER N. , SCAVENGE V.

animal which feeds on dead animals; hunt through discarded materials for usable items; search, especially for food

- ☑ **Syn.** hunter, forager, searcher
- ☒ Urchins scavenging for food is a heart-wrenching but common sight in our country.

SCENARIO

plot outline, possible situation

- ☑ **Syn.** framework, course of events
- ☒ Their daily confrontation in the suburban train would make an interesting scenario for a play.

SCEPTIC N.

person doubtful of many things, cynic, detractor, agnostic

- * **Ant.** believer, disciple
- ☒ They tried hard to convince the sceptics of the truth but in vain.

SCEPTICAL

doubtful, questioning

- ☑ **Syn.** denying, not convinced
- * **Ant.** convinced, believing
- ☒ Although her parents tried to tell her that Santa Claus existed, the girl was sceptical.

SCHISM N.

division of a group into sections, a breach

- ☑ **Syn.** split, division, rupture, gulf
- ☒ Some people believe that globalisation has only widened the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

SCHIZOPHRENIA N. ,**SCHIZOPHRENIC Adj.**

mental illness where thoughts, feelings and actions are all disconnected; divided personality

- ☒ Symptoms of schizophrenia can include delusions, hallucinations, thought disorder and strange behaviour and emotions.

SCINTILLATE V.

to shine, sparkle, gleam, glimmer

- ☒ His confidence makes his personality scintillate.

SCION N.

young member of a noble family

- ☑ **Syn.** implant, graft, shoot, bud
- ☒ Jyotiraditya is the scion of the Scindia family.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. scrupulous | a. having nothing to do with religion |
| 2. scrutinize | b. strict |
| 3. secular | c. devote to pleasure |
| 4. sensual | d. accidental good fortune |
| 5. serendipity | e. examine very carefully |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

SCOFF V.

to make fun of in a nasty way

- ☑ **Syn.** mock at, sneer, belittle, deride
- * **Ant.** laud, praise, extol
- ✗ The Prime Minister scoffed at the suggestion that he was about to resign.

SCORCH V.

blacken, blister, burn, char, roast

- ☑ **Syn.** burn, singe, sear, char
- ✗ His feet were scorched by the burning sands.

SCORN N.

feeling of looking down, disrespect, contempt

- ☑ **Syn.** disdain, derision, ridicule
- * **Ant.** admiration, respect, esteem
- ✗ She feels nothing but scorn for people who condemn lying but tell lies themselves.

SCOURGE N.

thing which causes suffering, affliction, plague, bane

- * **Ant.** blessing, bonanza
- ✗ Terrorism looks set to be the scourge of the world for many years to come.

SCRUPLE N. SCRUPULOUS Adj.

reservation, qualm, compunction, pang; conscientious, extremely thorough

- ☑ **Syn.** misgiving, doubt, qualm, regret
- ✗ A scrupulous young woman, she was the most suitable person for the post.
- ✗ He is a man without scruple -- he has no conscience.

SCRUTINY

careful observation

- ☑ **Syn.** investigation, survey
- * **Ant.** glance, cursory look
- ✗ The prehistoric fossils were subjected to a careful scrutiny by the team of scientists.

SECEDE

to withdraw formally from an organisation or a union

- ☑ **Syn.** split with, leave
- * **Ant.** join, resign
- ✗ Eventually Latvia seceded from the USSR.

SECLUDED

isolated and remote

- ☑ **Syn.** lonely, cut off
- * **Ant.** accessible, public
- ✗ The hermit lived in a secluded cottage, far from the other villagers.

SECLUSION N.

isolation, solitude

- ☑ **Syn.** privacy, quiet, shelter
- ✗ The victim's family remained in seclusion yesterday and refused to talk to reporters.

SECTARIAN

narrow-minded, relating to a group or sect

- ☑ **Syn.** partial, one-sided
- * **Ant.** tolerant, broadminded
- ✗ Since the fall of communism, the country's various ethnic groups have plunged into sectarian violence.

SECULAR

not specifically pertaining to religion

- ☑ **Syn.** worldly, profane
- * **Ant.** sacred, religious
- ✗ The new manager was so secular in his outlook that he did not want the column for religion in the application form.

SEDENTARY Adj.

always sitting down, not active

- ☑ **Syn.** inactive, sitting
- * **Ant.** active, lively, energetic
- ✗ My doctor says I should take up some sport because my lifestyle is too sedentary.

SEDITION N.

encouraging people to rebel against the government

- ☑ **Syn.** agitation, treason, subversion
- ✗ The government charged them for sedition and put them in jail.

SEDULOUS Adj.

very careful and persistent, resolute, persevering

- Syn.** assiduous, meticulous, dogmatic
- * **Ant.** careless, sloppy
- ✗ Clearing CAT requires a sedulous effort.

SEMANTICS N.

study of deep meaning of languages

- ✗ Very few universities offer semantics as a subject.

SEMBLANCE N.

appearance, similarity, analogy

- ☑ **Syn.** impression, resemblance, veneer
- ✗ The city has now returned to some semblance of normality after last night's devastation.

SEMINAL Adj.

germinal, related to seed or semen; influencing future developments

- ☑ **Syn.** determining, influential, decisive
- * **Ant.** irrelevant, unimportant
- ✗ He played a seminal role in the formation of this organisation.

SENILE Adj. SENILITY N.

old and mentally weak; feeble-mindedness of old age

- ✗ Some memory loss is normal with aging and not a sign that a person is completely senile.

SENSUAL Adj.

referring to pleasures of the body and not of the mind

- ☑ **Syn.** bodily, physical, corporeal
- ★ **Ant.** spiritual, mental
- ⌘ According to some, too much focus on the sensual has led to the decadence of American society.

SENSUOUS Adj.

which gives pleasure to the senses, hedonistic

- ☑ **Syn.** sumptuous, luxurious, rich
- ★ **Ant.** ascetic, austere, frugal
- ⌘ A sensuous presentation by the troupe.

SENTENTIOUS Adj.

too full of moral sense, terse, concise

Syn. moralistic, judgemental, pompous

- ⌘ The young have neither the time nor the patience for the sententious.

SENTIENT

aware, conscious, able to perceive

- ☑ **Syn.** responsive, reactive
- ★ **Ant.** insentient
- ⌘ The anaesthetic didn't work and the patient was still sentient when the surgeon made the first cut.

SERENDIPITY N.

pleasure obtained from things got accidentally; luck, coincidence

- ☑ **Syn.** chance, fate, destiny
- ★ **Ant.** design, plan, intend, mean
- ⌘ Finding that parking space right in front of the museum was sheer serendipity.

SERENE Adj. **SERENITY** N.

amiable, calm, pleasant

- ☑ **Syn.** tranquil, calm, peaceful, quiet
- ★ **Ant.** bustling, busy, active
- ⌘ The serene European countryside attracts millions of tourists.

SERRATED Adj.

toothed, with a zigzag edge

- ☑ **Syn.** jagged, notched, ragged
- ★ **Ant.** smooth, flat, even
- ⌘ The serrated edge of the branch cut him sharply.

SERVILE Adj.

like a slave, ingratiating, menial, obsequious

Syn. sycophantic, subservient, unctuous

Ant. bossy, arrogant

- ⌘ Your servile behaviour will only earn you disdain and contempt.

SEQUEL

anything that follows

- ☑ **Syn.** continuation, with flow
- ★ **Ant.** gap, breaks
- ⌘ I hear they're making another sequel to the movie, Matrix.

SHAM N.

fraud, hoax, counterfeit

- ☑ **Syn.** pretense, deception, con, fraud
- ★ **Ant.** genuine, real, authentic
- ⌘ It turned out that he wasn't a real doctor at all – he was just a sham.

SHAMBLES N.

slaughter house; scene of a mess or a muddle

- ☑ **Syn.** mess, muddle, dump
- ⌘ After the dinner was over, my room was in shambles.

SHARD

piece of broken glass or pottery

- ☑ **Syn.** fragment, splinter
- ⌘ Bina picked up the shards of the broken vase and attempted to glue them back together.

SHEEPISH

timid, meek, bashful

- ☑ **Syn.** ashamed, mortified
- ★ **Ant.** unabashed, unembarrassed
- ⌘ Sam looked sheepish and apologetic when he was caught smoking in the no-smoking zone.

SHIRK

to avoid a task due to laziness or fear

- ☑ **Syn.** dodge, shuffle
- ★ **Ant.** fulfilling the duty, sincere
- ⌘ She was hard-working and did not shirk any task.

SHODDY Adj.

sham; not genuine; inferior

- ☑ **Syn.** careless, slapdash, inferior
- ⌘ If you look at the way the furniture has been put together, it's fairly shoddy.

SHREW N.

scolding woman

- ☑ **Syn.** termagant, spitfire, martinet
- ⌘ Her former husband describes her as a greedy and manipulative shrew.

SIESTA N.

afternoon sleep

- ☑ **Syn.** rest, nap, sleep, snooze
- ⌘ In most Mediterranean countries markets close down for siesta.

SIMIAN Adj.

monkey-like

- ⌘ Some mammals may show simian characteristics but not the monkey's intelligence.

SIMULATE V.

to pretend, duplicate, copy, clone

- ☑ **Syn.** replicate, reproduce, imitate
- ⌘ The most important part of astronaut training is to simulate space flight conditions.

SINECURE N.

well-paid position with little responsibility

- ✎ The post was just a sinecure passed down from one party member to another.

SINEWY Adj.

tough; strong and firm

- ☑ **Syn.** wiry, lean, strong
- ✎ His sinewy and muscular physique adds to his erudite demeanour.

SINGE

to burn slightly, scorch

- ☑ **Syn.** char, blacken
- ✎ Martha singed the hairs on her arm while trying to save the vessel on the stove from toppling

SINISTER Adj.

evil

- ☑ **Syn.** menacing, ominous, evil, creepy
- ✎ Every society has certain sinister elements; religion has nothing to do with it.

SINUOUS Adj.

winding; bending in and out; not morally honest

- ☑ **Syn.** lithe, supple, twisting, windy
- ★ **Ant.** straight, erect
- ✎ The sinuous movement of the snake propelled it through the desert sand.

SKIRMISH N.

slight battle between opposite sides

- ☑ **Syn.** contest, encounter, struggle
- ✎ We are receiving reports of several skirmishes in the surrounding countryside.

SLANDER V.

to say untrue or malicious things about a person

- ☑ **Syn.** insult, malign, libel, defamation
- ★ **Ant.** acclamation, praise
- ✎ He sued the papers for slander against him.

SLIGHT

to treat as unimportant, insult

- ☑ **Syn.** lightweight, inconsequential
- ★ **Ant.** substantial, important
- ✎ Prakash slighted his old friend Shyamala by not inviting her to his birthday party.

SLIPSHOD

careless, hasty

- ☑ **Syn.** disorganised, casual
- ★ **Ant.** meticulous, careful
- ✎ Because he was so stressed out, Kumar did a rather slipshod job of his last project.

SLOTH N. **SLOTHFUL** Adj.

laziness

- ☑ **Syn.** idleness, laziness, inactivity
- ★ **Ant.** liveliness, energy, sparkle
- ✎ The report criticises the government's sloth in tackling environmental problems.

SLOVENLY Adj.

untidy, careless

- ☑ **Syn.** sloppy, dishevelled, messy
- ★ **Ant.** tidy, neat
- ✎ The store manager lectured his employees on the importance of neatness, warning them that a slovenly appearance was cause for dismissal.

SLUGGARD

lazy, inactive person

- ☑ **Syn.** immobile, impassive
- ★ **Ant.** active, energetic
- ✎ He was a sluggard, only interested in eating potato chips while lazing on the couch and watching TV.

SMATTERING N.

slight knowledge

- ☑ **Syn.** bit, modicum, dash, smidgen
- ✎ I've only got a smattering of experience with computers.

SMIRK N. V.

conceited smile

- ☑ **Syn.** grin, leer, sneer, simper
- ✎ Polly had a smirk on her face when her colleague made a poor presentation.

SMOULDER V.

burn without flame; be liable to break out at any moment

- ☑ **Syn.** burn, smoke, glow
- ✎ Safety regulations prevent the sale of any furniture that can catch fire from a smouldering cigarette.

SMUG Adj.

self-satisfied, narcissistic

- ☑ **Syn.** superior, arrogant, conceited
- ★ **Ant.** humble, modest, unassuming
- ✎ Most Indian companies are facing immense difficulties in the liberalised regime, smug as they were earlier under protection.

SNICKER or **SNIGGER** N. V.

half-stifled laugh, laugh at someone

- ☑ **Syn.** scorn, scoff, mock, deride
- ✎ There was snicker in the class when the teacher made a mistake.
- They spent much time sniggering at the clothes worn by the members of rival group.

SNIPPET

tiny part, tidbit

- ☑ **Syn.** morsel, fragment
- ★ **Ant.** total, whole
- 🔗 From the brief snippet of conversation she overheard, Isha realised that her job was in danger.

SNUB N. V.

insult, disregard; spurn, ostracise

- ☑ **Syn.** ignore, slight, rebuff
- ★ **Ant.** admit, acknowledge, allow
- 🔗 The PM is rumoured to have snubbed the offer.

SNUG Adj.

warm and comfortable, homey, cosy

- ☑ **Syn.** cosy, warm, homely, close
- ★ **Ant.** bleak, unwelcoming, austere, miserable, drab
- 🔗 We curled up in bed, all snug and warm and listened to the wind in the trees outside.

SOBRIETY

seriousness

- ☑ **Syn.** solemnness, gravity
- ★ **Ant.** anxiety, perturbation, discomposure
- 🔗 Shashank's witty comments alleviated the sobriety of the budget conference.

SOBRIQUET

nickname

- ☑ **Syn.** moniker, byname, pet name
- ★ **Ant.** full name, formal designation
- 🔗 One of Ronald Reagan's sobriquets was "The Gipper".

SODDEN

thoroughly soaked, saturated

- ☑ **Syn.** drenched, streaming
- ★ **Ant.** dry, arid
- 🔗 My shoes were thoroughly sodden after trekking through the damp forest grass.

SOJOURN

visit, stay

- ☑ **Syn.** stopover, residence
- 🔗 After graduating from college, Kalyanii decided on an extended sojourn in South India.

SOLECISM N.

construction that is flagrantly incorrect

- ☑ **Syn.** error, mistake, blunder
- 🔗 The article contains many solecisms.

SOLICITOUS

concerned, attentive, eager

- ☑ **Syn.** mindful, responsible
- ★ **Ant.** irresponsible, careless
- 🔗 The solicitous waiter stood at the star's table right through the meal, attentive to her every need.

SOMBRE

dark, gloomy

- ☑ **Syn.** melancholy, dismal
- 🔗 Everyone at the funeral was wearing dark, sombre clothes except for the little girl in the flowery dress.

SOMNAMBULISM N. , SOMNAMBULIST N.

walking in sleep

- 🔗 The defence lawyer claimed that the accused suffered from somnambulism.

SOMNOLENT

drowsy, sleepy, inducing sleep

- ☑ **Syn.** tired, languid
- ★ **Ant.** energetic, enthusiastic
- 🔗 She felt somnolent after a tiring schedule.

SONOROUS Adj.

which makes a loud ringing noise

- ☑ **Syn.** loud, deep, resonant
- ★ **Ant.** thin, fine, sheer, reedy
- 🔗 The sound of the sonorous church bells brought the whole village to life.

SOPHIST

person good at arguing deviously

- ☑ **Syn.** debator, swindler, trickster
- ★ **Ant.** dumb, quiet
- 🔗 The philosopher, known as a masterful sophist, was respected by people but not trusted.

SOPORIFIC Adj.

sleep-inducing

- ☑ **Syn.** hypnotic, heavy, monotonous
- ★ **Ant.** stimulating, inspiring, exciting
- 🔗 A good lunch and a bad lecture are both soporific.

SORDID Adj.

wretched, foul, dirty, inferior

- ☑ **Syn.** squalid, distasteful, foul
- ★ **Ant.** pleasant, enjoyable, lovely
- 🔗 Journalists snooped around for sordid bits of gossip.

SPARTAN Adj.

lacking luxury and comfort; sternly disciplined

- ☑ **Syn.** frugal, simple, basic, bare, severe
- ★ **Ant.** luxurious, comfortable, deluxe
- 🔗 They lead a rather spartan life, with no comforts or luxuries.

SPASMODIC Adj.

fitful; periodic

- ☑ **Syn.** irregular, sporadic
- ★ **Ant.** continuous, incessant, constant
- 🔗 His spasmodic attempts dieting did not achieve anything.

SPATE N.

sudden flood

- ☑ **Syn.** epidemic, wave, rash, craze
- ✗ The river which passes through our village, causes a spate every year.
- ✗ Police are investigating a spate of burglaries in the Kingsland Road area.

SPECIOUS Adj.

seemingly reasonable but incorrect

- ☑ **Syn.** false, hollow, erroneous, baseless
- ✗ Her specious arguments didn't really convince anyone.

SPECTRE N. , **SPECTRAL** Adj.

ghost, fear; ghostly

- ☑ **Syn.** apparition, spirit, image
- ✗ The spectre of failure made him nervous.

SPECULATION

contemplation, act of taking business risks for financial gain

- ☑ **Syn.** gamble, hypothesising
- ✗ Speculation in the stock markets is quite common.

SPONTANEOUS

on the spur of the moment, impulsive

- ☑ **Syn.** impromptu, impulsive
- * **Ant.** planned, calculative
- ✗ Jean took a spontaneous decision to go to the movies instead of visiting her in-laws.

SPOONERISM N.

exchanging letter of words by mistake

- ✗ The Reverend William Spooner used to produce spoonerisms such as "a scoop of boy trouts", instead of "a troop of boy scouts."

SPORADIC Adj.

occasional, recurrent, infrequent

- ☑ **Syn.** intermittent, infrequent, erratic
- * **Ant.** regular, usual, normal, recurring
- ✗ Your sporadic visits to the library will not fetch the desired results.

SPORTIVE

frollicsome, playful

- ☑ **Syn.** high spirited, romping
- * **Ant.** solemn, staid
- ✗ The lion roared in pain as the sportive cub bit its tail playfully.

SPRIGHTLY

lively, animated

- ☑ **Syn.** energetic, vigorous
- * **Ant.** doddering, sluggish
- ✗ He was quite sprightly and active for a 98-year-old.

SPURIOUS Adj.

false; counterfeit; forged; illogical

- ☑ **Syn.** bogus, forged
- * **Ant.** genuine, authentic, indisputable, actual
- ✗ Only experts can distinguish between a spurious diamond and a genuine one.

SPURN V.

reject; scorn

- ☑ **Syn.** snub, slight, repulse, disdain
- * **Ant.** accept, believe, recognise, admit
- ✗ I think he was rather outraged that I'd spurned his advances.

SQUABBLE N.

quarrel, argument, altercation

- ☑ **Syn.** argue, quarrel, bicker, row
- ✗ They squabbled in the morning, made up by evening and started all over again the next morning.

SQUALID Adj. **SQUALOR** N.

shabby, dirty, filthy, sooty, sordid

- ☑ **Syn.** filthy, dirty, foul, nasty
- * **Ant.** clean, spotless, unsoiled
- ✗ Many prisons, even today, are overcrowded and squalid places.

SQUANDER V.

to waste away money or energy

- ☑ **Syn.** waste, spend, dissipate, misuse
- * **Ant.** save, put aside, keep, bank
- ✗ It's better to save your money for when you really need it than to squander it.

SQUEAMISH Adj.

easily shocked, easily made sick

- ☑ **Syn.** delicate, prudish, particular
- * **Ant.** strong, burly, robust, glaring
- ✗ Many cooks are squeamish about putting live shellfish into boiling water.

SQUIRM V.

to wriggle about, writhe, fidget

- ☑ **Syn.** wriggle, writhe, twist, fidget
- ✗ The thief squirmed when the police asked him some searching questions.

STAGNANT

immobile, stale

- ☑ **Syn.** inert, stable
- * **Ant.** following, running
- ✗ That stagnant pond is a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes.

STALEMATE N.

deadlock

- ☑ **Syn.** impasse, deadlock, draw, tie
- ✗ The talks on wage revision has again reached a stalemate.

STALK

to hunt, pursue

- ☑ **Syn.** to look for, to search for
- ⌘ The rock star put a restraining order on the insane woman who had been stalking him for many years.

STALWART N.

strong, vigorous, brave person

- ☑ **Syn.** strong, muscular, athletic
- ⌘ The Tatas have been the stalwarts of Indian industry.

STAUNCH V.

to stop blood from flowing, resist, check

- ☑ **Syn.** resolute, unyielding, stubborn
- * **Ant.** irresolute, vacillating, unsure
- ⌘ The country's asylum laws were amended to staunch the flow of economic migrants.

STARTLE V.

frighten, alarm, intimidate, spook

- ☑ **Syn.** surprise, shock, frighten
- ⌘ The noise of the car startled the birds and the whole group flew up into the air.

STICKLER N.

perfectionist, purist

- ☑ **Syn.** pedant, nitpicker, martinet
- ⌘ He's a stickler for detail.

STIFLE V.

suffocate, curb, censor, suppress

- ☑ **Syn.** smother, throttle, choke
- * **Ant.** encourage, let out
- ⌘ He threw a blanket over the burning frying pan to stifle the flames.

STIGMA N.

guilt, blame, onus, shame, disgrace

- ☑ **Syn.** shame, disgrace, dishonour
- * **Ant.** honour, credit
- ⌘ There is no longer any stigma attached to getting a divorce.

STILTED

stiff, unnatural

- ☑ **Syn.** artificial, unrelaxed
- * **Ant.** effortless, natural
- ⌘ The nervous father of the bride gave a rather stilted speech at the wedding banquet.

STINT N.

job, task, assignment, duty, chore

- ☑ **Syn.** spell, stretch, period
- ⌘ His stint at the World Bank taught him a lot.

STIPEND

allowance, fixed amount of money paid regularly

- ☑ **Syn.** salary, emolument
- * **Ant.** incentive, perks
- ⌘ Unable to survive on her small stipend from the university, Jane was forced to take loans.

STIPPLE V.

paint or draw with dots

- ⌘ He stippled paint on the canvas to create an interesting abstract painting.

STIPULATE V.

insist, demand, require

- ☑ **Syn.** specify, instruct, order
- ⌘ In a democratic setup it is difficult to stipulate a monetary fine for spitting on the roads.

STOCKADE

enclosed area forming defensive wall

- ☑ **Syn.** a military prison, defensive area
- * **Ant.** open place, public area
- ⌘ As the enemy approached, the soldiers took their defensive positions behind the stockade.

STOIC N.

person who accepts pains without complaining

- ☑ **Syn.** austere, ascetic, unmoved
- ⌘ We knew she must have been in pain, despite her stoic attitude.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. stringent | a. not obvious |
| 2. stymie | b. awesome |
| 3. subjugate | c. thwart |
| 4. sublime | d. strict |
| 5. subtle | e. subdue |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

STOLID Adj. **STOLIDITY** n.

slow and heavy, not excitable, phlegmatic, stoic; dullness; impassiveness

- ☑ **Syn.** impassive, matter-of-fact
- ☒ IBM's growth has been a stolid unlike that of Microsoft.

STOUT Adj.

robust, sturdy, muscular, strong

- ☑ **Syn.** fat, heavy, solid
- * **Ant.** weak, slight
- ☒ I've bought myself a pair of good stout boots for hiking.

STRATAGEM

plan or trick designed to deceive an enemy

- ☑ **Syn.** scheme, tactic
- * **Ant.** random, without plan
- ☒ The Trojan Horse must be one of the most successful military stratagems in history.

STRATIFY

to arrange in layers

- ☒ Caste was used to stratify society in ancient India.

STREW V.

spread randomly; sprinkle; scatter

- ☑ **Syn.** encumber, litter, fill
- * **Ant.** free, gratis, at no cost
- ☒ The floor of the auditorium was strewn with flowers.

STRIDENT Adj. **STRIDENCY** N.

rough, harsh, caustic, loud

- ☑ **Syn.** vociferous, clamorous, shrill
- * **Ant.** yielding, squashy, elastic
- ☒ The strident commercials often take away the pleasure of watching movies.

STRINGENT Adj.

strict, firm, inflexible, harsh

- ☑ **Syn.** severe, strict, rigorous, stern
- * **Ant.** lax, sloppy, flexible, sloppy
- ☒ In spite of the rather stringent rules at camp, we enjoyed the activities.

STULTIFY V. , **STULTIFICATION** N.

to make someone stupid

- ☑ **Syn.** deaden, dampen, cloud, blunt
- * **Ant.** emphasise, highlight, stress
- ☒ Too much of pampering will only stultify the child.

STUNTED

having arrested growth or development

- ☑ **Syn.** bantam, dwarf
- * **Ant.** giant, huge
- ☒ The plant's growth was stunted, smothered by the rapidly growing creeper.

STUPEFY V.

to astonish, daze, stun, shock

- ☑ **Syn.** astonish, astound, amaze, stun
- ☒ Stupefied by the number of items required for a lengthy canoe trip, I gritted my teeth and set about collecting the supplies.

STUPOR N.

state of apathy; daze; lack of awareness

- ☑ **Syn.** trance, coma, daze, dream
- ☒ While in a drunken stupor he became abusive and violent and had to be restrained by hotel staff.

STYLISE

to fashion, formalise

- ☑ **Syn.** magnified, polished
- * **Ant.** casual, informal
- ☒ After Nita stylised her wardrobe to match Princess Diana's, everyone said they could have been sisters.

STYMIE

to block or thwart

- ☑ **Syn.** obstruct, inhibit
- * **Ant.** assist, help
- ☒ The guard's effort to trap the bank robber was stymied when the thief escaped through a rear window.

SUAVE (*SWAHV*) Adj. **SUAVITY** N.

extremely polite, slick, smooth, genteel

- ☑ **Syn.** smooth, polished, polite, urbane
- ☒ A successful manager has first of all got to be suave.

SUBDUED

suppressed, stifled

- ☑ **Syn.** low-spirited, downcast
- * **Ant.** lively, cheerful
- ☒ The actor was momentarily subdued after the director's outburst, but was soon his overconfident self again.

SUBJECTION

dependence, obedience, submission

- ☑ **Syn.** domination, oppression
- * **Ant.** submissive, accommodating
- ☒ The coach demanded total subjection from the athletes in his team.

SUBJUGATE V.

overpower, enslave, subdue, defeat

- ☑ **Syn.** beat down, vanquish
- * **Ant.** help, foster, nurture
- ☒ The British subjugated the Indians through divide and rule.

SUBLIMATE V.

refine; purify

- ☒ We should try to sublimate our stamina and energies into constructive work.

SUBLIME Adj.

grand, noble, magnificent, very great

☑ **Syn.** inspiring, inspirational, uplifting

★ **Ant.** ridiculous, ludicrous, absurd

☞ The dresses in the fashion show went from the sublime to the ridiculous.

SUBLIMINAL Adj.

below the consciousness of the senses

☑ **Syn.** subconscious, concealed

★ **Ant.** explicit

☞ The interview was carried out in front of a factory to give voters the subliminal message that the Prime Minister was a man of the people.

SUBSERVIENT Adj. **SUBSERVIENCE** N.

behaving like a slave; servile; obsequious

☑ **Syn.** submissive, obedient

★ **Ant.** pushy, aggressive

☞ Being an upright man, he refused to be subservient to any one.

SUBSEQUENT

following in time or order

☑ **Syn.** succeeding, ensuing

★ **Ant.** previous, prior

☞ A statement will be issued subsequent to the meeting.

SUBSISTENCE N.

existence; means of support; livelihood

☑ **Syn.** maintenance, support, upkeep

☞ My pension is the only means of my subsistence.

SUBTERFUGE N.

deception, trick, fraud, hoax

☑ **Syn.** trick, ploy, ruse, dodge

★ **Ant.** honesty, openness

☞ It was clear that they had obtained the information by subterfuge.

SUBTERRANEAN

hidden, secret, underground

☑ **Syn.** secret, concealed

★ **Ant.** on the surface, in light

☞ The new railway had to take the subterranean route as there was no room left above ground in the growing city.

SUBTLE

understated, muted

☑ **Syn.** toned down, subdued

★ **Ant.** lurid, obvious

☞ The pickpocket was so subtle that his victims did not even realise they had been robbed.

SUBVERSION N. **SUBVERSIVE** Adj.

revolt, mutiny, treason; tending to overthrow; destructive

☞ He was found guilty of subversion and imprisoned.

SUCCINCT

terse, brief, concise

☑ **Syn.** compact, condensed

★ **Ant.** verbose, lengthy

☞ She was sought after by many talk shows, as her remarks were always succinct and to the point.

SUCCOUR N.

help, assistance

☑ **Syn.** help, aid, assistance, support

☞ The whole world, the developed and the developing countries, should provide succour to the starving children of Ethiopia, Rwanda and such other African countries.

SUCCULENT Adj., N.

juicy; full of richness

☑ **Syn.** juicy, most, tender, luscious

★ **Ant.** dry, shrivelled, unappetising

☞ This is the land of plenty of succulent fruits.

SUFFERABLE

bearable

☑ **Syn.** manageable, tolerable

★ **Ant.** unbearable, enduring

☞ The only thing that made his prison term sufferable was his beloved pet mouse, Romeo.

SULLEN

brooding, gloomy

☑ **Syn.** morose, resentful

★ **Ant.** cheerful, sociable

☞ The sullen child sat in the corner by herself, refusing to play with her classmates.

SUMPTUOUS Adj.

very luxurious, splendid, opulent

☑ **Syn.** extravagant, costly, superb

★ **Ant.** meagre, scanty, too little

☞ The dinner served at the wedding was simply sumptuous.

SUNDER V.

separate; part

☑ **Syn.** divide, split, cleave

☞ North and South Korea were politically sundered.

SUPERANNUATED Adj.

retired or disqualified because of age

☞ He was superannuated from his job when he turned 60.

SUPERCILIOUS Adj.

arrogant, lofty, haughty

☑ **Syn.** snooty, patronising

★ **Ant.** modest, humble, meek

☞ The supercilious invariably have a great fall.

SUPERFICIAL

hasty, shallow and phony

- ☑ **Syn.** external, outer
- ★ **Ant.** deep, thorough
- ✗ The politician was friendly, but in a superficial, unconvincing way.

SUPERFLUOUS Adj.

excessive; overabundant; unnecessary

- ☑ **Syn.** surplus, not required, excessive
- ★ **Ant.** essential, basic, fundamental
- ✗ Whenever I go travelling, I always make sure that I don't take any superfluous luggage with me.

SUPERNUMERARY N.

person or thing in excess of what is necessary; extra

- ✗ His role in the play seemed supernumerary when he appeared on the stage.

SUPERSEDE V.

cause to be set aside; replace

- ☑ **Syn.** succeed, supplant, surpass
- ✗ He was promoted superseding other senior officers.

SUPPLANT V.

replace; usurp

- ☑ **Syn.** displace, succeed, supersede
- ✗ In most offices, the typewriter has now been supplanted by the computer.

SUPPLE

flexible, pliant

- ☑ **Syn.** agile, sprightly
- ★ **Ant.** stiff, unfit
- ✗ The supple stalks of bamboo swayed back and forth in the wind.

SUPPLIANT Adj., N.

entreating; beseeching

- ☑ **Syn.** begging, pleading, imploring
- ✗ Few can resist a suppliant dog.

SUPPLICANT

one who asks humbly and earnestly

- ☑ **Syn.** borrower, suitor
- ✗ He was normally a tough fellow, but transformed into a supplicant when pleading with the banker for a loan.

SURFEIT Adj.

excess, plethora, abundance

- ☑ **Syn.** surplus, glut, flood
- ★ **Ant.** deficit, under-supply
- ✗ The country has a surfeit of cheap labour.

SURLY Adj.

rude; cross

- ☑ **Syn.** gruff, brusque, abrupt, curt
- ★ **Ant.** courteous, considerate, civil
- ✗ His surly behaviour is the root cause of his failure.

SURMISE N.

a guess, supposition, assumption

- ☑ **Syn.** guess, infer, deduce, gather
- ★ **Ant.** know
- ✗ I surmise that Rajat is involved in some illegal activity.

SURMOUNT V.

to overcome an obstacle

- ☑ **Syn.** prevail, conquer, triumph
- ★ **Ant.** fail, not pass, disappoint
- ✗ Progress results when you surmount your limitations.

SURPASS

to do better than, be superior to

- ☑ **Syn.** excel, outshine
- ✗ Ayrton Senna surpassed his own record to clinch the F1 title.

SURREPTITIOUS Adj.

clandestine, deceitful, covert

- ☑ **Syn.** secret, sly, crafty
- ★ **Ant.** blatant, open, honest
- ✗ He'd been so surreptitious about his drinking that no one realised he'd become an alcoholic.

SURROGATE N.

substitute, backup, standby

- ☑ **Syn.** replacement, proxy, deputy
- ✗ Due to a ban on direct advertising, liquor manufacturers have to rely on surrogate advertising in India.

SURVEILLANCE N.

strict watch, observation

- ☑ **Syn.** watch, scrutiny
- ✗ More banks are now installing surveillance cameras.

SUSCEPTIBLE

vulnerable, unprotected

- ☑ **Syn.** credulous, gullible
- ★ **Ant.** sceptical, streetwise
- ✗ Because of her weakened state, Veena was susceptible to infection.

SUSPEND

to defer, interrupt, dangle, hang

- ☑ **Syn.** postpone, delay
- ★ **Ant.** continue, resume
- ✗ The Golden Gate bridge is suspended two miles in the air on steel wires.

SUSTAIN

support, uphold

☑ **Syn.** endure, undergo

★ **Ant.** collapse under

🔗 If we can sustain our efforts a little longer, I'm sure our plan will succeed.

SWARTHY Adj.

dark; dusky;

🔗 He was swarthy but his smile really dispelled all darkness.

SWELTER V. , **SWELTERING** Adj.

be oppressed by heat

☑ **Syn.** scorching, red hot, sizzling

★ **Ant.** freezing, cold, icy, chilly

🔗 In many states in India, people swelter in the summer season.

SWERVE V.

to move to one side, deviate, detour

☑ **Syn.** veer, deviate, change direction

🔗 The car swerved after slipping on the road.

SWINDLER N.

cheat

☑ **Syn.** fraud, faker, biker, shark

🔗 He was very successful as a swindler because he was able to persuade people to believe in him.

SYCOPHANT N.

person who flatters those in power

☑ **Syn.** toady, flatterer

🔗 The politician is surrounded by sycophants.

SYMBIOSIS

cooperation, mutual helpfulness

☑ **Syn.** alliance, coalition

★ **Ant.** autonomy, competition

🔗 The rhino and the bird live in symbiosis; the rhino gives the bird food in the form of ticks, and the bird rids the rhino of parasites.

SYMPOSIUM

meeting with short presentations on related topics

🔗 The university's English department held a symposium on sexual imagery in the works of D. H. Lawrence.

SYNOPSIS

plot summary

☑ **Syn.** abstract, outline

🔗 Oren wrote a one-page synopsis of a 55-page book.

SYNTHESIS

blend, combination

🔗 The methods used in the experiment were a synthesis of techniques from biology and medicine.

SYNTHETIC

artificial, imitation

☑ **Syn.** mock, simulated

★ **Ant.** real, natural

🔗 The flowers in the window looked so realistic that you could hardly tell they were made of synthetic materials.

Political Science

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

BUREAUCRACY : a system of govt. in which most of the important decisions are taken by state officials rather than by elected representatives

GERRYMANDER : to alter voting district lines so as to further one's own interests in obtaining votes

INCUMBENT : currently in office; running against a challenger

JINGOISM : belligerent or excessive patriotism

JUNKET : personal trip of a public official financed by public funds

NEPOTISM : political favoritism toward friends and relatives, especially in granting favours

PARTISAN : advocating or favouring the views of one party

RABBLE-ROUSER : a person who speaks with intention of inflaming the emotions of a crowd of people, typically for political reasons

QUORUM : the minimum number of members required to conduct business

STALWART : an unwavering, staunch supporter