

“M”

MACABRE Adj.

gruesome, deathlike, horrible, eerie

- ☑ **Syn.** ghoulish, ghastly, grisly, chilling
- ☒ Even the police were horrified at the macabre nature of the killings.

MACHIAVELLIAN (*MAKIAVELIEN*) Adj.

crafty, perfidious in activity, based on amoral political rules

- ☑ **Syn.** evil, wicked, deceitful, fraudulent
- ☒ The Machiavellian activities of our politicians surprise no one.

MACHINATE V., **MACHINATION** N.

to form a plot for doing some harm

- ☑ **Syn.** plot, conspire, plan
- ☒ The arrested person revealed about the machinations of the assassination.

MACHO Adj., **MACHISMO** N.

aggressive, dominant, domineering, he-man

- ☒ He's too macho to admit he was hurt when his girlfriend left him.

MACROCOSM

the entire universe, a complex that is a large-scale reproduction of one of its parts

- ☑ **Syn.** cosmos, galaxy
- ★ **Ant.** microcosm, model
- ☒ In a welfare society, the state can be considered a macrocosm of the family in that it takes care of the elderly and children.

MAELSTROM

whirlpool, turmoil, agitated state of mind

- ☑ **Syn.** tumult, eddy
- ☒ The transportation system of the city had collapsed in the maelstrom of war.

MAESTRO N.

a master, especially an eminent music composer or conductor

- ☑ **Syn.** genius, expert, ace, whiz
- ★ **Ant.** amateur, unpaid, recreational
- ☒ The sitar maestro Pt. Ravishankar will give a recital this evening.

MAGNANIMOUS Adj., **MAGNANIMITY** N.

generous, large-hearted, not petty, noble and generous in victory as well as defeat, forgiving

- ☑ **Syn.** benevolent, kind, chivalrous
- ★ **Ant.** petty, mean, malicious, obdurate
- ☒ Arsenal's manager was magnanimous in victory and praised the losing team.

MAGNATE N.

a very powerful person, VIP, tycoon

- ☑ **Syn.** attraction, inducement, pull
- ☒ Bombay and Surat are inhabited by diamond magnates.

MAGNITUDE

extent, greatness of size

- ☑ **Syn.** immensity, vastness
- ★ **Ant.** smallness, triviality
- ☒ When she saw the large wet patches on the walls, she realised the full magnitude of repairs the house needed.

MAGNILOQUENT Adj.,

MAGNILOQUENCE N.

pompous, boasting

- ☒ The magniloquent contestant sounded too rude.

MAGNUM OPUS N.

a great work especially of literature or learning

- ☒ Paradise Lost is John Milton's magnum opus.

MAIM V.

to disfigure, mutilate

- ☒ Many maimed bodies were recovered from the bogies of the ill-fated train.

MALADROIT Adj.

unskillful, clumsy, gauche, faltering, inept

- ☑ **Syn.** awkward, ungainly
- ☒ Her lack of self-confidence does make her rather maladroit in social situations.

MALADY N.

disease, fault, illness

- ☑ **Syn.** problem, difficulty, trouble, woe
- ☒ Inefficiency is the biggest malady plaguing the Indian industry.

MALAISE N.

uneasiness, a feeling of discomfort

- ☑ **Syn.** depression, disquiet, melancholy
- ★ **Ant.** optimism, sanguinity, buoyancy
- ☒ She wrote about the depression and malaise felt by women trapped in their suburban homes.

MALAPROPISM N.

Verbal blunder, misapplication of words

- without mispronunciation, wrong use of a similar sounding word
- ☒ In the sentence, "The price of food in Japan is gastronomical", the word 'gastronomical' is a malapropism, because it should be 'astronomical.'

MALCONTENT N.

a person who is not satisfied

- ☑ **Syn.** dissident, nonconformist
- ☒ The usual malcontents turned up for the meeting and made trouble.

MALEDICTION N.

cursing, a calling down of evil

- * **Ant.** benediction
- ☒ Malediction, if heart-felt, does come true at times.

MALEFACTOR N.

an evil-doer, a criminal

- * **Ant.** benefactor
- ☒ A malefactor policeman can wreak havoc.

MALEVOLENT Adj., MALEVOLENCE N.

ill-disposed, wishing evil, sinister, ominous, bad, intense hatred

- * **Ant.** benevolent
- ☒ The character was not entirely malevolent; the author made a point of showing her good qualities as well.

MALFEASANCE N.

mismanagement, malpractice

- ☒ Several cases of malpractice and malfeasance in the financial world are currently being investigated.

MALFUNCTION

breakdown, failure

- ☑ **Syn.** collapse, impairment
- ☒ The malfunction of the booster rocket meant that the space shuttle could not be launched on schedule.

MALICE N., MALICIOUS Adj.

ill-will, spite, antipathy, animosity, acrimony

- ☑ **Syn.** hatred, malevolence, cruelty
- * **Ant.** compassion, gentleness
- ☒ One of my malicious students has spread canards about me.
- ☒ Killing the neighbour's dog was an act of sheer malice.

MALIGN Adj., V., MALIGNANT N.

baleful, injurious, malignant, to speak of in an evil way, to defame or slander; having an evil influence

- ☑ **Syn.** slander, criticise, libel
- * **Ant.** praise, admire, commend
- ☒ Elaborate and specialised treatment is required to prevent the spread of a malignant disease.
- ☒ She has maligned my reputation because she has a prejudiced view.

MALODOROUS

foul-smelling

- ☑ **Syn.** fetid, putrid
- * **Ant.** fragrant, aromatic
- ☒ The malodorous beggar stood no chance of winning anyone's sympathy.

MALNUTRITION

undernourishment

- ☑ **Syn.** anorexia, hunger
- ☒ The child's distended stomach and spindly limbs were sure signs of malnutrition.

MAMMOTH Adj.

very huge, colossal, goliath, promethean

- ☑ **Syn.** enormous, huge, massive
- * **Ant.** tiny, minute, little, small, petite
- ☒ Cleaning up the Yamuna is going to be a mammoth task.

MANDATORY

necessary, required

- ☑ **Syn.** obligatory, compulsory
- * **Ant.** optional, voluntary
- ☒ It is mandatory for all company employees to wear blue uniforms while on the job.

MANIFEST(adj.) – obvious (v) – demonstrate

- ☑ **Syn.** show, exhibit
- * **Ant.** hide, mask
- ☒ The fact that she had had plastic surgery was manifest, since she looked 20 years younger than she did the previous week.

MANIFESTO N.

a written public declaration

- ☑ **Syn.** policy, proposal, programme
- ☒ Manifestos of all political parties are high-sounding and therefore alluring.

MANIFOLD

diverse, varied, comprising many parts

- ☑ **Syn.** multitudinous, multifarious
- * **Ant.** simple, single
- ☒ The manifold tourist attractions of London make it a great place to visit.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. martyr | a. lying |
| 2. maudlin | b. overly sentimental |
| 3. mendacious | c. one who dies for a cause |
| 4. mentor | d. teacher |
| 5. mercenary | e. hired soldier |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Tes

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

MANTLE N.

a symbol of authority, coat

- ☒ She unsuccessfully attempted to assume the mantle of presidency.

MANUAL(adj.) – operated by hand

(n) – instruction book

- ☑ **Syn.** physical, non-automatic
- ★ **Ant.** automatic, mechanical
- ☒ When the power lines went down, the secretary dug out his old manual typewriter to finish the letters.

MANUMIT V.

emancipate, free from bondage, release from slavery

- ☒ The authorities in our big temples should come forward and manumit the *devdasis*.

MAR – to damage, deface, spoil

- ☑ **Syn.** disfigure, detract
- ★ **Ant.** improve, enhance
- ☒ The telephone poles marred the natural beauty of the countryside.

MARAUDER N., **MARAUD** V.

a plunderer, a raider, seeker of goods, pillager

- ☑ **Syn.** raider, looter, prowler, intruder
- ☒ The marauders burst into the camp, shooting into houses, hurling stones and smashing car windows.

MARGARINE N.

a butter-like substance, fat or lard used in cakes, desserts etc.

- ☒ I prefer my toast with margarine.

MARGINAL – barely sufficient

- ☑ **Syn.** insignificant, minimal
- ★ **Ant.** vast, gross
- ☒ Because her skills were marginal, she was paid a very low salary.

MARIJUANA N.

cannabis, *ganja*, grass

- ☒ Regular smoking of marijuana can cause short-term memory loss and long-term health problems.

MARINATE V., **MARINATION** N.

to soak food in a liquid or paste; a step in food preparation

- ☒ Marinate the chicken in white wine for a couple of hours before frying.

MARITIME Adj.

pertaining to the sea, having a sea coast

- ☑ **Syn.** marine, naval
- ☒ The blockade of the ports has eliminated maritime trade but some supplies are still getting through over land.

MARSHAL V., N.

to lead solicitously, to place in proper rank and position; a high-ranking military official

- ☑ **Syn.** assemble, line up, position
- ★ **Ant.** dismiss, give notice, reject
- ☒ The fighting in the city followed reports of the rebels marshalling their forces in the countryside.

MARSUPIAL Adj.

mammals that carry their young ones in a pouch

- ☒ Kangaroos are marsupials.

MARTIAL

warlike, pertaining to the military

- ☑ **Syn.** combative, soldierly
- ★ **Ant.** civil, civilian
- ☒ Experts in martial arts know how to defend themselves using their bare hands.

MARTINET

strict disciplinarian, one who rigidly follows rules

- ☑ **Syn.** bully, authoritarian
- ★ **Ant.** liberal, lenient
- ☒ A complete martinet, the official insisted that Pankaj fill out all the forms again even though he was already familiar with his case.

MARTYR

person dying for his or her beliefs

- ☒ Joan of Arc became a famous martyr after she was burned at the stake for her beliefs.

MASCOT N.

a talisman, one who brings good luck

- ☑ **Syn.** lucky charm, amulet
- ☒ There's a competition for designing a mascot for the commonwealth games.

MASOCHISM N., **MASOCHIST** N.

pleasure obtained by being tortured by others, gratification in pain

- ☒ He was so lazy that, for him, the marathon was nothing short of masochism.

MASQUERADE

disguise, action that conceals the truth

- ☑ **Syn.** pretence, deception
- ★ **Ant.** honesty, candour
- ☒ The rogue who was masquerading as a senior police officer managed to dupe several wealthy persons.

MASTICATE V.

to chew or grind to a soft material before swallowing

- ☑ **Syn.** munch, crunch, chomp
- ☒ Ayurvedic drugs need to be masticated.

MATERIALISM

preoccupation with material things

- Syn.** worldliness
- Hermits renounce materialism.

MATRON N., MATRONLY Adj.

An elderly lady of staid and sober habits

- The matron of a hostel or a hospital has to be ruthless at times.
- The woman was too matronly to suit this kind of job.

MAUDLIN Adj.

weepy, excessively sentimental

- Syn.** mawkish, sappy, slushy, mushy
- * **Ant.** unemotional, impassive
- Every Saturday night, he drank until he was quite maudlin.

MAUL V.

to handle roughly, beat, bruise

- Mauled by her brother-in-law, Seema filed a report of physical abuse at the police station.

MAUSOLEUM N.

a large tomb

- Syn.** crypt, burial chamber
- The mausoleum of Akbar is at Sikandra in Agra.

MAVERICK N.

a nonconformist, a stray person, unorthodox person

- Syn.** eccentric, rebel
- * **Ant.** conformist, follower
- He was considered as something of a maverick in the publishing world.

MAWKISH

sickeningly sentimental

- Syn.** sickening, nauseating
- * **Ant.** cool, impassive
- The poet hoped to charm his lover with his romantic poem, but she was put off by its mawkish tone.

MAXIM N.

proverb, a truth pithily stated, repeated saying of truth

- Syn.** adage, proverb
- A Silicon Valley company is about to test the maxim that smaller is always better for computers.

MAYHEM N.

a violent or noisy situation

- Syn.** chaos, disorder, turmoil
- * **Ant.** arrange, sort, organise, regulate
- The mayhem at the site of accident was beyond control.

MEAGRE Adj.

deficient, scrawny

- Syn.** scanty, paltry, trifling
- * **Ant.** abundant, plentiful, enough
- Meagre resources are major obstacles to growth in infrastructure .

MEANDER V.

to wander aimlessly, to follow a winding course

- Syn.** roam, amble, stroll, rove
- * **Ant.** rush, hurry, dash, sprint
- Narmada meanders through the Vindhya-chals and enters Gujarat.
- We spent the afternoon meandering around the streets of the old town.

MEDDLER

person interfering in others' affairs

- Syn.** intruder, interloper
- Mickey is a real meddler, always ready with unsolicited suggestions and offers of help.

MEDDLESOME Adj.

very officious, interfering

- Syn.** intrusive, nosy
- We have very meddlesome neighbours, who always want to know what we're doing.

MEDIEVAL

relating to the Middle Ages (about 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D.)

- In medieval times, diseases considered trivial today killed thousands, because medicine was not very advanced.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. mercurial | a. gloomy |
| 2. metamorphosis | b. magical change in form |
| 3. mitigate | c. soften |
| 4. mollify | d. moderate the effect of |
| 5. morose | e. emotionally unpredictable |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

MEDLEY N.

a mingled mass, mixture, assortment

- ☑ **Syn.** combination, mix, jumble
- ☒ There was a medley of stalls in the book fair.
- ☒ Discotheques play a medley of dance numbers to keep the rhythm going.

MEEK Adj.

submissive, patient and long suffering

- ☑ **Syn.** humble, timid, gentle
- * **Ant.** assertive, confident, forceful
- ☒ The law still seems to regard women as meek and submissive and men as strong breadwinners.

MEGALITH

huge stone used in prehistoric structures

- ☒ The archaeologist wondered how the prehistoric tribe had managed to move the gigantic megalith to the top of the hill.

MEGALOMANIAC N.

a person having a hunger for greatness and power

- ☒ The breed of megalomaniacs is increasing nowadays.
- ☒ The rulers in many countries build the tallest structures just to satisfy their megalomania.

MELANCHOLY N., MELANCHOLIC Adj.

sadness, suffering, grief, sorrow, abnormal dejection, excessively low spirit

- ☑ **Syn.** sad, depression, low, down
- * **Ant.** cheerful, happy, jovial, positive
- ☒ Dilip Kumar is an actor who is famous for melancholic roles.

MELANGE (MAYLANZH) N.

a mixture of different elements

- ☑ **Syn.** concoction, brew, combination
- ☒ Her book presents an interesting melange of ideas from different philosophies.

MELLIFLUOUS Adj.

sweetly or smoothly flowing, very smooth

- ☑ **Syn.** smooth, honeyed
- * **Ant.** harsh, cruel, callous
- ☒ The mellifluous tunes of Beatles songs made them living pop legends.

MELLOW Adj., V.

soft and ripe, well matured, melodic

- ☑ **Syn.** smooth, rich, full, soft
- * **Ant.** harsh, cruel, unsympathetic
- ☒ Age mellows the wildest of youth.

MELODRAMATIC Adj., MELODRAMA N.

exaggerated, histrionic, overdone, sensational

- ☒ If all Hindi films are not melodramatic, what are they ?
- ☒ We Indians love melodrama, be it TV serials or films.

MELODY

pleasing musical harmony, related to music

- ☑ **Syn.** tunefulness, lyricism
- ☒ The hit pop song had the same basic melody of a favourite old song.

MENACE N.

threat, danger, nuisance

- ☑ **Syn.** danger, hazard, peril
- ☒ Teenage drivers are a traffic menace.

MERCENARY (adj.)

motivated only by greed, money-minded

(n) – hired soldier

- ☑ **Syn.** rapacious, materialistic
- * **Ant.** charitable, philanthropic
- ☒ Many celebrated "explorers" were actually mercenary plunderers.

MERCURIAL

quick, shrewd, and unpredictable

- ☑ **Syn.** volatile, unpredictable
- * **Ant.** stable, constant
- ☒ Her mercurial temper made it difficult for her team to arrive at a rational decision.

MERIDIAN

imaginary circle passing through the two poles of the Earth

- ☒ The explorer attempted to follow the meridian from the North Pole to the South Pole, but his ship failed to negotiate the icebergs.

MERITORIOUS

deserving reward or praise

- ☑ **Syn.** praiseworthy, commendable
- * **Ant.** worthless, discreditable
- ☒ The student's meritorious performance won him a scholarship.

MENDACITY N., MENDACIOUS Adj.

untruthfulness, lying, deceiving, falsity

- ☑ **Syn.** dishonesty, deceit, lies, falsehood
- ☒ Mendacity is the hallmark of most Indian politicians.
- ☒ The mendacious saint was in for a public thrashing now that he was exposed.

MENDICANT N., MENDICANCY N.

a beggar

- ☒ Mendicancy seems to be a thriving business in India.

MENIAL Adj., N.

work of a servile or humiliating nature, blue-collar work

- ☑ **Syn.** unskilled, boring, tedious, basic
- * **Ant.** skilled, capable, expert, able
- ☒ The lot of the menials will never improve in the world.
- ☒ Many nurses find themselves given menial tasks, such as making beds and washing patients, which make little use of their skills.

MENTOR

experienced teacher and wise adviser

- ☑ **Syn.** trainer, counsellor
- * **Ant.** disciple, student
- ☒ Ruchi asked her mentor for help to choose the right college.

MERETRICIOUS Adj.

flashy, gaudy, glamorous in a cheap and showy way, rooted in bigotry and hypocritical views

- ☒ He claims that a lot of journalism is meretricious and superficial.

METAPHOR

figure of speech comparing two different things

- ☑ **Syn.** figurative expression, analogy
- ☒ The metaphor "a sea of troubles" suggests a lot of troubles by comparing their number to the vastness of the sea.

MESMERISE V.

hypnotise, captivate, engross, charm

- ☑ **Syn.** enthrall, entrance
- * **Ant.** bore, tire, irk, bore stiff
- ☒ The audience was completely mesmerised by her singing.

METAMORPHOSIS N.

a sudden or drastic change in characteristics, unexplainable but usually very noticeable change of form or character

- ☒ The collapse of communism caused the metamorphosis of the erstwhile USSR.

METE V.

to allot, give out

- ☒ Corrupt and criminal politicians should be meted out proper punishment.

METEORIC Adj.

breakneck, explosive, spectacular, speedy

- ☑ **Syn.** dramatic, sudden, swift, rapid
- * **Ant.** gradual, slow, regular, measured
- ☒ Anyone who has a meteoric rise can fall to the lowest depth in life.

METICULOUS Adj.

very careful about minute details, showing extreme care in all respects

- ☑ **Syn.** scrupulous, thorough, fussy
- * **Ant.** careless, slapdash, casual, sloppy
- ☒ A copy editor must correct written materials meticulously so that the published material is as perfect as possible.

METTLE

quality of character, courage, endurance

- ☑ **Syn.** fortitude, tenacity
- * **Ant.** cowardice, irresolution
- ☒ The pilot showed his mettle, landing the helicopter very close to the wounded soldiers, despite the heavy winds.

MIASMA N., **MIASMATIC** Adj.

swamp gas, heavy, vaporous atmosphere, often emanating from decaying matter

- ☒ A mist of pollution hung in the air over the city.

MICROBE

a microorganism like bacterium, particularly the kind that causes disease

- ☒ The discovery that microbes caused certain diseases was a major medical breakthrough.

MIGRATORY

wandering from place to place with the seasons

- ☑ **Syn.** translocation, migrating
- ☒ Bird watchers started gathering near the lake, in anticipation of the arrival of the migratory birds.

MILIEU N.

the surroundings or atmosphere

- ☑ **Syn.** setting, environment, locale
- ☒ The European milieu is a shock to the Asians at first.

MINATORY Adj.

having a menacing quality, threatening

- ☒ Munna threatened to kill the Sharma family and his minatory gaze said it all.

MINCE V.

to cut into tiny sections, to talk or walk in an affected or overly dainty manner, to hold back words discreetly

- ☑ **Syn.** cut up, chop up, hash
- ☒ Do not mince words with me – tell me what you're thinking.
- ☒ Mince two pounds of chicken finely for preparing *kebabs*.

MINUSCULE – very small

- ☑ **Syn.** diminutive, tiny
- * **Ant.** vast, huge
- ☒ Dave needed a magnifying glass to read the minuscule print on the lease agreement.

MIRE V., N.

entangle, stick in swampy ground, deep mud, also unpleasant situation

- ☑ **Syn.** swamp, marsh, sludge, slush
- ☒ Their expedition was hampered temporarily because the vehicles of their caravan were mired in the mud.

MIRTH N.

gladness or gaiety accompanied with laughter

- ☑ **Syn.** glee, hilarity
- * **Ant.** dejection, gloom
- ☒ An atmosphere of mirth prevailed in the freshers' party at Hindu college.

MISANTHROPE N., **MISANTHROPIC** Adj.

a person who hates his fellow human beings

- ☒ Hitler was often called a misanthrope.
- ☒ His tendency to avoid any company is almost misanthropic.

MISAPPREHEND

to misunderstand, misconstrue

- ☑ **Syn.** confuse, misjudge
- ☒ The policeman misapprehended the situation and arrested Mohan, although Prahlad was the guilty one.

MISCONSTRUE V.

to misinterpret, misjudge, misrepresent

- ☑ **Syn.** misunderstand, misread
- * **Ant.** understand, appreciate, know
- ☒ Their caution was misconstrued as cowardice.

MISCREANT N.

an evildoer

- ☑ **Syn.** scoundrel, malefactor
- ☒ Police apprehended the miscreants on the eve of *holi*.

MISDEMEANOUR N.

bad conduct, a misdeed, violation, crime, offense

- ☒ The government apologised for police misdemeanour.

MISERLINESS

extreme stinginess

- ☑ **Syn.** thrift, penuriousness
- * **Ant.** generosity, liberality
- ☒ Although Mohandas was a rich man, he was too much of a miser to help others.

MISGIVINGS N.

doubts

- ☑ **Syn.** qualms, worries, fears
- ☒ Misgivings should be done away with because they break up families and spoil lives.

MISHAP

accident, misfortune

- ☑ **Syn.** setback, adversity
- * **Ant.** fortune, fortuity
- ☒ In an unfortunate mishap, the actress broke her arm and could not perform that night as planned.

MISNOMER

an incorrect name or designation

- ☒ Some feel that "peacemaker" is a misnomer for a nuclear missile.

MISOGAMIST N., MISOGAMY N.

a person hating marriage

- ☒ G.B. Shaw was often accused of being a misogamist.
- ☒ Failed marriages are creating misogamy in today's youth.

MISOGYNIST N., MISOGYNY N.

a person hating women

- ☒ The club's refusal to allow women to become members is sheer misogyny.

MITIGATE

to soften, or make milder

- ☑ **Syn.** palliate, appease
- * **Ant.** aggravate, intensify
- ☒ The judge may mitigate the sentence if he is convinced that the crime was committed in self-defence.

MNEMONIC Adj.

pertaining to memory

- ☒ Things, phone numbers, words etc. can be remembered with mnemonic tricks.

MOCK

to deride, ridicule

- ☑ **Syn.** jeer at, scorn
- * **Ant.** inspire, encourage
- ☒ Charles suspected that Toni was mocking him behind his back, and decided to be on his guard with her.

MODERATE

to make less excessive, restrain, regulate

- ☑ **Syn.** curb, diminish
- * **Ant.** aggravate, increase
- ☒ The engineer moderated the flow of electricity to the house after its fuses blew repeatedly.

MODICUM N.

a very small amount

- ☑ **Syn.** little, bit, degree
- ☒ Given time, modicum of rancour can blow up into full-fledged vendetta.

MODUS OPERANDI N.

the manner of operating or working

- ☒ The modus operandi of the crime suggested a mafia hand.

MOGHUL N.

powerful person who has great wealth and power

- ☑ **Syn.** tycoon, industrialist, magnate
- ☒ Subhash Chandra, already a TV mogul is now thinking of venturing into newspapers.

MOLLIFY

to calm or make less severe

- ☑ **Syn.** appease, allay
- * **Ant.** enrage, inflame
- ☒ Their argument was so intense that it was difficult to believe any compromise could mollify them.

MOLLYCODDLE V.

to pamper

- ☒ She mollycoddled the irate child by buying him a soft toy.

MOMENTOUS Adj.

extremely important, crucial, decisive

- ☑ **Syn.** important, significant, crucial
- ☒ Whether or not to move overseas was a momentous decision for the family.

MONASTIC

extremely plain or secluded, as in a monastery

- ☑ **Syn.** ascetic, austere
- * **Ant.** luxurious, indulgent
- ☒ The philosopher retired to his monastic lodgings to contemplate life, away from any worldly distraction.

MONOCHROMATIC

having one colour

- ☒ The multicoloured butterfly really stood out in the monochromatic foliage of the clearing.

MONOGAMY

custom of marriage to one person at a time

- ☑ **Syn.** wedding, matrimony
- * **Ant.** polygamy
- ☒ Monogamy is the accepted norm in Indian culture, though some members of certain religions take more than one wife.

MONOLITHIC Adj., **MONOLITH** N.

solidly uniform, unyielding; a massive structure

- ☒ Many PSUs in our country are monolithic in structure.

MONOLOGUE

dramatic speech performed by one actor

- ☑ **Syn.** soliloquy, spiel
- * **Ant.** dialogue, conversation
- ☒ The actor skilfully varied the tone and pace of his 40-minute monologue to make it interesting.

MONUMENTAL Adj.

commemorative, memorial, columnar

- ☑ **Syn.** colossal, epic, huge, vast
- * **Ant.** small, little, minute, tiny, petite
- ☒ Monumental strides in the field of electronics have made the little things in life a lot more convenient.

MORATORIUM N.

legal delay of payment, stopping of an activity for a period

- ☑ **Syn.** suspension, freeze, halt, pause
- ☒ A general moratorium on repayment of agricultural loans provides farmers some room to try and overcome their problems.

MORBID Adj.

induced by disease, pessimistic, brooding, grisly, macabre

- ☑ **Syn.** morose, gloomy, dark, moody
- * **Ant.** cheerful, happy, cheery, joyful
- ☒ The morbid declaration of doomsday or the end of the world can frighten some people.

MORDANT Adj.

biting, sarcastic, stinging, cutting to the heart of the matter, incisive

- ☑ **Syn.** caustic, acerbic, scathing
- * **Ant.** gentle, mild, kind, calm
- ☒ Celebrities fear the mordant coverage of their private life by the press.

MORGUE N.

a place where dead bodies are kept for identification

- ☑ **Syn.** motherly, caring, tender
- ☒ To identify the dead in the morgue is in itself a mortifying act.

MORIBUND Adj.

about to die, in a dying state

- ☑ **Syn.** declining, waning, past it
- * **Ant.** thriving, flourishing, booming
- ☒ The old Indian social structure appears to be in a moribund state.

MORON N.

a feeble-minded person

- ☒ Some moron smashed into the back of my car yesterday.

MOROSE

gloomy, sullen or surly

- ☑ **Syn.** taciturn, sulky
- * **Ant.** cheerful, communicative
- ☒ After he was rejected by the university of his choice, Amit was morose for weeks.

MORTIFY V.

to humiliate, to deaden, subdue, to destroy

- ☑ **Syn.** degrade, crush, shame
- ☒ She remembered how mortified she'd been as a child, having to wear her sister's old dress to school.

MOTIF N.

a theme, design, issue, argument

- ☑ **Syn.** pattern, image, decoration
- ☒ The typical motifs in ancient Indian palaces is due to the assimilation of Mughal architecture.
- ☒ We chose some curtains with a floral motif.

MOTLEY Adj.

heterogeneous, assorted, diverse, of different, oddly grouped parts

- ☑ **Syn.** assorted, diverse, varied
- ☒ The museum has been converted into offices and is now inhabited by a motley assortment of architects, designers and artists.

MOTTLED Adj.

spotted

- ☑ **Syn.** dappled, spotty
- ☒ The mottled deer is so beautiful that it's worth watching.

MOULT

to shed hair, skin, or an outer layer periodically

- ☒ The snake moulted its skin and left it behind in a crumpled mass.

MOUND N.

a hillock, a heap

- ☑ **Syn.** heap, pile, stack, mass, load
- ☒ Archaeologists are investigating whether the small hill is really a burial mound

MULCT V., N.

to defraud or cheat; a fine, a penalty

- ☞ The new ruler mulcted the citizens in the name of a new city development fund.

MULTIFACETED

having many parts, many sided

- ☞ The multifaceted actor played five different roles in a single film, executing each to perfection.

MULTIFARIOUS

diverse

- ☑ **Syn.** varied, manifold
- ★ **Ant.** homogeneous, uniform
- ☞ India is famous for its multifarious culture and cuisine.

MUNDANE Adj.

commonplace, everyday, earthly as opposed to heavenly, worldly, ordinary or run-of-the-mill, menial

- ☑ **Syn.** dull, routine
- ★ **Ant.** foreign, from abroad, exotic
- ☞ Mundane matters such as eating and drinking do not excite her any longer.

MUNIFICENCE N., **MUNIFICENT** Adj.

magnificent liberality in giving, very liberal, generous in giving, lavish

- ☑ **Syn.** largesse, benevolence
- ☞ Sir Swaraj Paul is known for his munificence.

MUTABLE Adj., **MUTATION** N.

variable, subject to change

- ☑ **Syn.** changeable, changing
- ★ **Ant.** fixed, permanent, unchanging
- ☞ Mutable government policies keep investors at bay.
- ☞ In today's changing environment, a company has to maintain a mutable stand on policy matters.

MUTILATE V., **MUTILATION** N.

cripple, damage, disfigure

- ☑ **Syn.** maim, injure, hurt, harm
- ☞ Repeated amendments have mutilated the constitution.

MUTINY N., **MUTINOUS** Adj.

defiance, disobedience, insurrection, rebellion

- ☑ **Syn.** revolt, sedition, uprising
- ☞ The mutinous crew had endangered the passengers on the plane.
- ☞ The disillusionment has deepened to open mutiny in the ranks of the soldiers.

MUZZLE V., N.

to silence; mouth, snout

- ☑ **Syn.** silence, gag, shut up, quiet, stifle
- ☞ A good administrator never muzzles dissent.

MYOPIC Adj.

nearsighted, shortsighted

- ☑ **Syn.** bigoted, intolerant
- ★ **Ant.** broadminded, tolerant
- ☞ Their myopic refusal to act now will undoubtedly cause problems in the future.

MYRIAD Adj.

numberless

- ☑ **Syn.** countless, innumerable, many
- ★ **Ant.** few, little, the minority
- ☞ They offered no solution for all our myriad problems.

Gastronomy

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

BRAISE	:	to cook first by searing, then simmering in a small amount of liquid
BREW	:	make beer, tea or coffee by soaking formation or boiling
COLANDER	:	a perforated basket used to strain water-filled foods
CONFECTIONERY	:	any sweet food comprised primarily of sugar
DECANTER	:	narrow-necked glass container used to hold and serve wine
GASTRONOMY	:	the science of preparing and serving food
PASTEURIZE	:	to sterilize by raising and lowering temperature to prevent fermentation and growth of bacteria
SAUTE	:	fry briefly over high heat
TRUSS	:	to secure (hold together) with skewers or twine before cooking
ZEST	:	the outside rind of any citrus fruit which contains the essential oils used for flavoring