

“N”

NADIR N.

the lowest point of something, absolute bottom

- ☑ **Syn.** lowest point, depths
- ★ **Ant.** zenith, peak, pinnacle
- ✗ The defeat was the nadir of her career.

NAIVE (NAAEEV) Adj. **NAIVETE** N.

simple, natural, ingenuous, frank, unworldly, unsophisticated, unaffected, innocent; quality of being unsophisticated

- ☑ **Syn.** immature, adolescent, green
- ★ **Ant.** complicated, stylish, difficult
- ✗ They make the naive assumption that because it's popular it must be good.

NARCISSISM N., **NARCISSIST** N.

excessive self-admiration, egotism, vanity; conceited person

- ☑ **Syn.** selfishness, conceit
- ✗ Actors must need a certain amount of narcissism to get up on stage and perform in front of an audience.

NASCENT – starting to develop, coming into existence

- ☑ **Syn.** embryonic, incipient
- ★ **Ant.** established, dying
- ✗ The advertising campaign was still in a nascent stage, and the details were yet to be finalised.

NATAL Adj.

instinctive, genetic, inherent, inborn

- ☑ **Syn.** biological, birth, natural
- ✗ The natal gentleness of a cat can be seen in the kittens.

NATATION N.

Swimming

- ✗ The instructor emphasised the need for courses in natation.

NATTY Adj., **NATTILY** Adv., **NATTINESS** N.

smart and fashionable.

Syn. smart, fashionable, dapper, trendy

Ant. scruffy, untidy, dirty

- ✗ Malaika is a natty dresser and sets fashion trends.

NEBULOUS Adj.

hazy, vague, ambiguous, confused, fuzzy, unformed, indistinct

- ☑ **Syn.** vague, imprecise, unformulated
- ★ **Ant.** precise, exact, accurate, specific
- ✗ Our plan for touring the West had been so nebulous that every night on the trip, we had to pore over guidebooks, deciding where to go next.

NECROMANCY N.

witchcraft, sorcery, black magic

Syn. wizardry, occultism, enchantment, divination

- ✗ It is sad but true that even educated people believe in necromancy.

NEFARIOUS Adj.

wicked, villainous, vicious, perverse, evil

- ☑ **Syn.** evil, despicable, immoral
- ★ **Ant.** reputable, upright, honest
- ✗ The nefarious activities of the mafia pervade Italy.

NEGLIGIBLE

not worth considering

- ☑ **Syn.** insignificant, trivial
- ★ **Ant.** significant, considerable
- ✗ It is obvious from our negligible dropout rate that our students love our course.

NEMESIS N.

an agent of retribution, a terrible opponent

- ☑ **Syn.** vengeance, retribution, doom
- ✗ Avarice may prove to be the nemesis of man.

NEOLOGISM N.

new or newly coined word or phrase

- ☑ **Syn.** new expression, new term, new phrase, coinage
- ✗ The newspaper used the neologism DINKS to describe the couple--double income no kids.

NEONATE

newborn child

- ✗ After the gas leak, the intensive care unit was filled with neonates having respiratory problems.

NEOPHYTE N.

tyro, novice, beginner, dilettante

- ☑ **Syn.** tenderfoot, recruit
- ★ **Ant.** veteran, expert, professional
- ✗ Unfortunately the manual is written by people who seem to have forgotten that most of their readers are neophytes.

NEPOTISM N.

undue patronage to one's relations

- ☑ **Syn.** favouritism, partiality, bias
- ✗ The government was dismissed following revelations about corruption, nepotism and political incompetence.

NETHER Adj.

lower

- ☑ **Syn.** posterior, rear, hind
- ★ **Ant.** front, forefront, fore
- ✗ The boiler room is somewhere down in the building's nether regions.

NETTLE V.

to sting, bother

- ☑ **Syn.** annoy, irritate, exasperate, vex
- ✗ She looked up at me sharply, clearly nettled by the interruption.

NEUTRALITY

disinterestedness, impartiality

- ☑ **Syn.** fairness, lack of prejudice
- ★ **Ant.** partiality, bias
- ⌘ Switzerland is well known for its neutrality in times of international conflict.

NEXUS N.

association, link, connection

- ⌘ The notorious politician-criminal nexus in India seems unbreakable.

NIBBLE V.

to bite gently, chew, gnaw

- ☑ **Syn.** chew, gnaw, bite, eat
- ⌘ While sitting idle, he kept on listlessly nibbling at the food.

NICETY

elegant or delicate feature, minute distinction

- ☑ **Syn.** nuance, subtlety
- ⌘ Rani went to fancy parties all summer, enjoying the niceties of upper-crust society.

NICHE (*NISH*) N.

a recess in a wall, a special place

- ☑ **Syn.** position, place, slot, function
- ⌘ Marketers are concentrating on niche markets.

NIFTY Adj.

fine, smart, sharp, neat

- ☑ **Syn.** ingenious, clever, natty, neat
- ⌘ The nifty receptionist in the front lobby was attracting all eyes.
- ⌘ Thanks for a nifty piece of work !

NIGGARDLY Adj.

stingy, thrifty, greedy, parsimonious, very tight with money or means, penurious

- ☑ **Syn.** stingy, meagre, miserly, measly
- ★ **Ant.** kind, liberal, giving, charitable
- ⌘ The company's niggardly salaries discouraged many of its employees, who began to look elsewhere for better pay.

NIHILISM N., **NIHILITY** N.

a belief in nothing, extreme scepticism; nothingness

- ⌘ Nihilism is the backlash of the rampant materialism, consumerism and heartless modern life.

NIGGLE V., N.

cause slight but persistent annoyance

- ☑ **Syn.** Irritate, annoy, worry, trouble
- ⌘ I don't react any more when opponents try and niggle me.

NIT-PICKING Adj.

carping, fault-finding, finicky, hairsplitting

- ⌘ Nit-picking never delivers goods.
- ⌘ In the fight against corruption, the macro issues must be targeted first; nitpicking should not mislead the crusade.

NOCTURNAL Adj.

of night, operating in the night

- ☑ **Syn.** of the night, night
- ⌘ Owls are nocturnal creatures. Most bats and owls are nocturnal.

NOISOME Adj.

extremely offensive to the senses (esp. smell), highly objectionable

- ☑ **Syn.** obnoxious, offensive, repugnant
- ★ **Ant.** pleasant, sweet-smelling
- ⌘ The jailhouse was a noisome dungeon.

NOMAD N. **NOMADIC** Adj.

wanderer

- ☑ **Syn.** rover, traveller, drifter
- ⌘ At heart he was a nomad.

NOMENCLATURE

terms used in a particular science or discipline

- ☑ **Syn.** language, terminology
- ⌘ Although I've been studying medicine for six months, I just can't seem to get the nomenclature right.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. mundane | a. a huge number |
| 2. myriad | b. new word |
| 3. nebulous | c. evil |
| 4. nefarious | d. ordinary |
| 5. neologism | e. vague |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

NOMINAL

existing in name only, negligible

- ☑ **Syn.** titular, official
- ★ **Ant.** real, substantial
- ⌘ A nominal but far from devout Catholic, she rarely went to church.

NONCHALANT Adj. **NONCHALANCE** N.

unconcerned, careless, unceremonious

- ☑ **Syn.** casual, offhand, unflappable
- ★ **Ant.** concerned, worried, troubled
- ⌘ Unlike many of the runners who were obviously nervous, the champion seemed almost nonchalant before the race.

NONDESCRIPT Adj.

not easily classified, commonplace, dull

- ☑ **Syn.** ordinary, dull, uninteresting
- ★ **Ant.** special, particular, individual
- ⌘ The meteorological bureau is in a nondescript building on the outskirts of town.

NONPAREIL Adj.

matchless, unequalled

- ⌘ Performance-wise "Gone with the Wind" remains nonpareil.

NONPLUS V.

surprise, astonish, amaze, baffle, discomfit

- ☑ **Syn.** unnerve, throw, stump
- ⌘ Diana's candid interview nonplussed many.

NON SEQUITUR Adj.

an irrelevant conclusion, an illogical statement

- ⌘ It was obvious that he was not paying attention during the discussion as he came up with a non sequitur.

NOSTALGIA N.

sentimental longing for past times, reminiscence, recollection

- ☑ **Syn.** wistfulness, longing
- ⌘ Nostalgia is the last resort of fallen heroes.

NOSTRUM N.

a secret or quick remedy

- ⌘ There are no nostrums available for the chronic ailments of Indian society.

NOTORIETY

unfavourable fame

- ☑ **Syn.** infamy, disrepute
- ★ **Ant.** low profile, anonymity
- ⌘ Arjun realised from the silence that greeted him as he entered the bar that his notoriety preceded him.

NOVICE

apprentice, beginner

- ☑ **Syn.** learner, inexperienced
- ★ **Ant.** veteran, expert
- ⌘ Although Julie is still a novice at sailing, she shows great potential.

NOXIOUS Adj.

hurtful, deadly, lethal, baneful

- ☑ **Syn.** harmful, toxic, poisonous
- ★ **Ant.** harmless, safe, risk free
- ⌘ The noxious fumes from modern automobiles, industries etc. are polluting the environment.

NUANCE N.

shade of difference in meaning or colour

- ☑ **Syn.** shade, tone, gradation, tinge
- ⌘ The artist has managed to capture every nuance of the woman's expression.

NUBILE Adj.

suitable for marriage.

- ⌘ She is worried about finding a husband for her nubile daughter.

NUGATORY Adj.

futile, worthless

- ⌘ The advice was nugatory as every member of the team committed the same old blunders.

NUGGET N.

a lump

- ☑ **Syn.** piece, bit, chunk, hunk, wad
- ⌘ Confucius's philosophy consists of many nuggets of wisdom.
- ⌘ A chicken or fish nugget is a small piece that has been covered in bread crumbs and fried.

NULLIFY

to make legally invalid; to counteract the effect of

- ☑ **Syn.** annul, repeal
- ★ **Ant.** ratify, validate
- ⌘ Rowling nullified her contract with her publisher when she received a better offer from another company.

NUMISMATIST N.

person who collects coins

- ⌘ The numismatist's collection of antique coins is unique because he has taken pains to document the history of every coin.

NUPTIAL Adj.

pertaining to marriage

- ☑ **Syn.** marriage, wedding, bridal
- ⌘ Apparently, the nuptial knot is tied stronger in the east than in the west.