

“B”

BABBLE V., N.

to talk foolishly or inarticulately, to murmur continuously, chatter idly

- ☑ **Syn.** blurb, gossip, prattle
- ✗ Stop babbling while the lecture is going on!
- ✗ You need to talk clearly and forcefully when you are trying to convince somebody, not just babble.

BACCHANAL N. **BACCHANALIAN** Adj.

a wild gathering involving excessive drinking and promiscuity, an orgiastic revelry

- ✗ Late night party goes become bacchanals and indulge in acts that they later regret.

BACON N.

salted and dried flesh of pig

- ✗ John prefers bacon and bread for his breakfast.

BADINAGE N.

light playful talk, banter

- ✗ Avoid badinage if you want to be accepted as serious speaker.

BAFFLING V., Adj., **BAFFLE** N.

to frustrate, confound, confuse, bewilder, impede; a device for controlling the flow of gas, liquid or sound through an opening

- ☑ **Syn.** thwart, perplex, stymie
- ★ **Ant.** aid, contribute, assist
- ✗ He was completely baffled by the question.
- ✗ Nidhi's baffling behaviour at her birthday party is beyond my comprehension.

BAIL V. (usually used with *out*)

to clear water from by dipping and throwing out; to help escape from a predicament

- ☑ **Syn.** payment, financial guarantee
- ✗ After the main batsmen failed, the team was once again bailed out by the bowlers.
- ✗ The IMF tries to bail out many third world economies but its role is controversial.

BAILIWICK N.

distinct area, a person's normal territory or jurisdiction

- ☑ **Syn.** field, domain, dominion, terrain
- ✗ The MP had no decision making power outside of her bailiwick.

BAIT N., V.

any temptation or allurements as part of a trap; to persecute or exasperate with unjust, malicious or persistent attacks

- ☑ **Syn.** decoy, enticement, lure, tease
- ✗ The tiger came for the bait finally.
- ✗ The dancers in the club baited many young professionals.

BALEFUL

harmful, with evil intentions

- ☑ **Syn.** menacing, malevolent
- ★ **Ant.** benevolent, friendly
- ✗ The sullen teenager gave his nagging mother a baleful look.

BALLAD N.

a song accompanying a dance, a narrative composition in verse to suit the rhythm of a dance

- ✗ The valour of Laxmibai is beautifully described in the ballads of Bundelkhand.

BALM

medicinal ointment, lotion, something that heals

- ☑ **Syn.** pomade, emollient
- ★ **Ant.** astringent, irritant
- ✗ The balm of friendship can work wonders at times of great sorrow.

BALLISTICS N. **BALLISTIC** Adj.

science of motion of missiles, bullets, projectiles

- ✗ The details of modern ballistics can be traced to *puranas*.
- ✗ Indian scientists test fired a new ballistic missile today.

BAN

to forbid, outlaw

- ☑ **Syn.** prohibit, debar
- ★ **Ant.** permit, admit
- ✗ Jagan was banned from the bar for life after he misbehaved and caused damage.

BANAL

trite, overly common

- ☑ **Syn.** cliched, hackneyed
- ★ **Ant.** original, uncommon
- ✗ His lyrics are considered banal and are no longer popular.

BANDANA N.

a large coloured spotted handkerchief often used as a neckerchief

- ✗ You can spot gypsies wearing bandanas on the beaches of Goa.

BANDIT N.

brigand, desperado, footpad

- ☑ **Syn.** outlaw, crook, conman
- ✗ Travellers started avoiding the Pune-Nashik highway at night, after bandits looted bus passengers.

BANE N. **BANEFUL** Adj.

destruction, death, source of evil, curse, source of bad luck or harm, cause of ruin

- ☑ **Syn.** scourge, curse, pestilence
- ★ **Ant.** boon, benefit, advantage
- ✗ Sloth and corruption are the bane of Indian administration.

BANTER V., N.

to tease playfully and in good humour

☑ **Syn.** gossipry, small-talk, chit-chat

★ **Ant.** debate, deliberation

⌘ Gandhi's banter with Charlie is a cherished page of history.

⌘ He was surprised to see the violent reaction of his friend on his banter.

BAPTISE V. **BAPTISM** N.

to give a name to, to administer baptism

☑ **Syn.** sanctify, describe, denominate, dub

⌘ A Christian is no Christian unless he is baptised.

BARB N.

a wounding or wittily pointed remark, a medieval cloth headdress.

☑ **Syn.** insult, dig, taunt, sting

⌘ The barbs suffered by Adolf Hitler in childhood transformed him into the Fuhrer.

BARBAROUS Adj. **BARBARIAN** N. **BARBARIC** Adj.

uncivilised, uncultured, harsh or brute

⌘ In the Second World War, the Japanese army was among the most barbarous.

⌘ The barbaric treatment of the prisoners in Iraq by American armed forces was condemned by the world.

BARBECUE V., N.

to roast or broil on a rack over hot coals; a fireplace for roasting meat

⌘ My favourite dish is chicken marinated and barbecued.

BARGE V. **BARGE** N.

to thrust oneself heedlessly or unceremoniously, a roomy pleasure boat

⌘ Anil suddenly barged into the conference room and this annoyed his father.

⌘ Owning a big barge is a sign of affluence among the fishermen in America.

BAROQUE N., Adj.

a bold style in architecture, extravagant, ornate, elaborate style of decoration or presentation

☑ **Syn.** decorative, elaborate, rococo

★ **Ant.** plane, basic, pure, bare, obvious

⌘ We are fascinated by Melinda's absolutely baroque life; her huge Victorian house, complex career and elaborate clothing intrigue us.

⌘ The baroque entrance to the lobby is indeed impressive.

BARONIAL Adj.

grand, majestic, august, grandiose

☑ **Syn.** grand, impressive, opulent

★ **Ant.** humble, modest, poor, meek

⌘ The baronial rooms of his house depict opulence.

BARRAGE (*BARAAJ*) N.

a heavy or continuous fire, as of questions; a dam

☑ **Syn.** bombardment, onslaught

⌘ Farrakha Barrage has considerably mitigated the flood problem in Bengal and Bihar.

⌘ Salman dodged a barrage of questions after his court appearance and sped away.

BASH N.

party, celebration

BASHFUL Adj.

shy, demure, quiet

☑ **Syn.** coy, diffident, nervous

★ **Ant.** bold, extrovert, gregarious

⌘ She gave a bashful smile as he complimented her on her good work.

BASK V.

to lie in the warmth or sunshine

☑ **Syn.** lie around, laze around, relax

⌘ You can always see tourists basking in the sun on the beaches of Goa.

BASTION N.

a strongly fortified, secured, guarded place

☑ **Syn.** bulwark, fort, embankment

⌘ The club regarded itself as one of the last bastions of male supremacy.

BATE V.

to reduce the force or intensity of

☑ **Syn.** slacken, subside, wane

⌘ The hunter waited with bated breath for the lion to take the bait.

BAUBLE N.

trinket, trifle

⌘ Young children take pride in showing off their baubles.

BAWDY Adj.

indecent, obscene

☑ **Syn.** coarse, vulgar, lewd

★ **Ant.** refined, advanced, superior

⌘ The bawdy remarks infuriated Ipshita and she retaliated.

BAWL V., N.

cry, lament, grieve, bemoan, wail

☑ **Syn.** cry, howl, wail, roar, sob, shout

★ **Ant.** whisper, murmur, undertone

⌘ She lay there bawling but nobody came to forward to comfort her.

BAY(v)

to howl long and deep

(n) – large body of water, recess of land

☑ **Syn.** howl, bellow

⌘ The dog bayed all night, much to the annoyance of the neighbours.

BEATIFIC Adj., **BEATITUDE** N.

supremely happy, angelic, giving bliss, blissful

☑ **Syn.** innocent, saintly, virtuous

★ **Ant.** evil, wrong, depraved, immoral

✗ The beatific smile on the face of the pilot belied the fact that he was facing certain death.

BEAU N.

lover, dandy, boyfriend

✗ Sara broke up with her beau and needed emotional support.

BECKON V.

to make a summoning to, gesture, motion, nod

☑ **Syn.** signal, sign, summon, gesture

★ **Ant.** dismiss, release, discharge, sack

✗ The nation beckons you, young man, rise and shine.

BEDIZEN V., **BEDIZENMENT** N.

to dress vulgarly

✗ I was shocked to see girls bedizened in see-through costumes in the bar.

BEDRAGGLE V.

to wet thoroughly

✗ The puppy waited outside the door, bedraggled and miserable, hoping to be allowed in.

BELABOUR V.

to attack verbally, to explain or insist on excessively

✗ You do not have to belabour the point, I have already accepted my mistake.

BEFUDDLE V.

confuse thoroughly

☑ **Syn.** muddle, mix up, bewilder, baffle

★ **Ant.** teach, coach, tutor, educate, drill

✗ The umpire's strange signal befuddled not just the batsman but also the entire fielding side.

BEGRUDGE V.

resent, envy, resist

✗ They begrudged having to stay with their sick father, but put up with it for the sake of the patrimony that awaited them.

BEGUILE

to deceive, mislead, charm

☑ **Syn.** dupe, bewitch

★ **Ant.** be honest or straight

✗ You will be beguiled by his sweet talk.

BEHEST N.

command, an urgent prompting

☑ **Syn.** request, command, order, will

✗ The world trade no longer functions at the behest of any one superpower.

BEHEMOTH

huge creature or thing

☑ **Syn.** colossus, goliath

★ **Ant.** tiny, lilliput

✗ The spate of mergers are creating corporate behemoths.

BELATED

late, behind time

☑ **Syn.** delayed, overdue

★ **Ant.** early, punctual

✗ George handed Sushmita a belated birthday gift with an apologetic grin.

BELEAGUER

harass, surround

☑ **Syn.** annoy, badger

★ **Ant.** assist, aid

✗ Manisha's beleaguered parents finally gave in to her request for a PC.

BELITTLE

to represent as unimportant, make light of

☑ **Syn.** demean, disparage

★ **Ant.** praise, applaud

✗ Chandrika's parents scolded her for constantly belittling her younger sister's views.

BELLICOSE

ready to fight, aggressive

☑ **Syn.** irascible, hostile

★ **Ant.** peaceloving, amiable

✗ Immediately after defeating one of his enemies, the bellicose chieftain declared war on another.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. banal | a. surrounded |
| 2. bastion | b. unoriginal |
| 3. beleaguer | c. combative |
| 4. belittle | d. stronghold |
| 5. belligerent | e. make to seem little |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

BELLIGERENT

hostile, aggressive, fighter

- ☑ **Syn.** disputatious, quarrelsome
- ★ **Ant.** neutral, friendly
- ✗ The bartender realised that there was no subduing the belligerent drunk.

BELLOW V.

to make a violent cry, to roar out like a bull, scream

- ☑ **Syn.** shout, roar, yell, bawl, holler
- ★ **Ant.** whisper, sigh, rumour, hint
- ✗ Hitler was known to bellow at his subordinates.

BEMOAN V.

to express deep grief or distress over

- ✗ Ruby bemoaned separation from her lover for six months.

BEMUSE V. BEMUSEMENT N.

BEMUSED Adj.

to put in confusion

- ☑ **Syn.** bewilder, puzzle, perplex, muddle
- ✗ The bemused parents looked at their son's ponytail carefully.

BENCHMARK

standard of measure

- ☑ **Syn.** criterion, yardstick
- ✗ The average scores of the previous year's students are used as a benchmark to assess the new batch.

BENEDICTION N.

good wishes, blessings, encouragement, sanction

- ☑ **Syn.** blessing, approval, sanction
- ✗ Benediction, they say, at the right time, in right amounts, can inspire one to move mountains.

BENEFACITOR

someone giving aid or money

- ☑ **Syn.** patron, champion
- ✗ A mysterious benefactor paid off Ravina's debts, making it possible for her children to attend college.

BENEFICENT

kindly in action and purpose, charitable, producing good effects

- ☑ **Syn.** altruistic, philanthropic
- ★ **Ant.** unkind, mean
- ✗ Despite his tough reputation, Kumar was a beneficent man, and donated millions to worthy charities.

BENEVOLENCE N., BENEVOLENT Adj.

charitableness, philanthropy, kindness

- ☑ **Syn.** contribution, donation, largesse
- ★ **Ant.** enmity, resentment, malignancy
- ✗ His benevolence turned out to be a charade to cover his nefarious activities.
- ✗ His benevolent nature is reflected in many of his charity projects.

BENIGN Adj.

kindly, favourable, gracious, gentle, mild, not malignant

- ☑ **Syn.** humane, clement, humanitarian
- ★ **Ant.** barbarous, cruel, malignant.
- ✗ Her benign presence lent glitter to the occasion.

BEQUEATH V. BEQUEST N.

to leave by will for another, to leave for posterity

- ☑ **Syn.** bestow, accord, hand out
- ✗ Picasso bequeathed Spain and France most of his paintings and sculptures.
- ✗ 'Liberty, equality and fraternity' was one of the rallying cries of the French revolution.

BERATE

to scold harshly

- ☑ **Syn.** rebuke, admonish
- ★ **Ant.** praise, laud
- ✗ Andy was embarrassed when his mother berated him in public for damaging the family car.

BERSERK Adj.

violently frenzied or angry, out of control, mad

- ☑ **Syn.** maniacal, amok, crazy, mad
- ★ **Ant.** sane, sensible, sound, normal
- ✗ Denied permission to marry his lady love, Prince Dipendra went berserk and opened fire on his entire family.

BEREAVE V., BEREAVEMENT N.

to deprive of something, to take away by force, state of sorrow after the death of a beloved

- ✗ He was bereaved of his possessions when his father kicked him out of the house.
- ✗ The entire nation was in bereavement after the death of the young prime minister.

BESEECH V.

to entreat, to implore, to ask for, to solicit,

- ☑ **Syn.** beg, request, ask, plead, press
- ✗ He came again and again beseeching for money.

BESIEGE V.

to surround to force to give up, harass, cause to feel distressed

- ☑ **Syn.** blockade, surround, beset
- ★ **Ant.** divest, uncover, expose
- ✗ After the controversial film was telecast the television company was besieged by angry phone calls and letters.

BESMIRCH V.

to make dirty with smoke or soot, to sully, soil, defile

- ☑ **Syn.** defame, scandalise, malign, slur
- ✗ The crimes they committed in the Second World War besmirched the country's name.

BESTOW

to give as a gift

- ☑ **Syn.** confer on, award to
- ★ **Ant.** deprive, refuse
- ✗ The students bestowed many gifts upon the teacher on her retirement.

BETROTH V., BETROTHAL N.

become engaged to marry

- ✍ Their betrothal came as a surprise to most of their classmates.

BEVY N.

group, assembly, collection, cluster, covey, flock

- ☑ **Syn.** horde, throng, multitude, pack
- ✍ He got to see a bevy of beautiful girls at the pageant.

BIAS

prejudice, slant

- ☑ **Syn.** partiality, favouritism
- ★ **Ant.** impartiality, objectivity
- ✍ Racial bias in employment is illegal in the United States.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

list of books

- ☑ **Syn.** catalogue, list of references
- ✍ Please include a bibliography at the end of the thesis so that the reviewer can identify the sources.

BIBLIOPHILE

book lover

- ☑ **Syn.** bookworm, bibliomaniac
- ✍ The librarian was a real bibliophile; she knew every author we mentioned.

BICKER V.

quarrel, quibble, argue

- ☑ **Syn.** dispute, debate, squabble
- ★ **Ant.** agree, consent, correspond
- ✍ It is pity that educated girls bicker over trivial matters.

BIGOT N., BIGOTED Adj.

biased, narrow-minded person

- ☑ **Syn.** extremist, dogmatist, hypocrite
- ✍ The bigot was thoroughly disliked for his hate-filled opinions.
- ✍ She's so bigoted that she refuses to accept anyone who doesn't think like her.

BILATERAL

two-sided

- ☑ **Syn.** two-pronged, joint
- ★ **Ant.** independent, unilateral
- ✍ The battle finally came to a halt when the two sides signed a bilateral treaty.

BILIOUS Adj.

related to liver trouble, irritable, suffering from indigestion

- ✍ The ending of the financial year sees many a bilious businessmen.

BILK V., N.

to cheat out of something valuable, frustrate, escape

- ☑ **Syn.** defraud, baffle, disappoint
- ✍ The fake *fakir* bilked the lady of her belongings in the name of God.

BILLET-DOUX N.

a love-letter

- ✍ The love-smitten scholar handed her a note saying, "Here's a little billet-doux," and the simple lady thought he was giving her the bill for the food.

BILLOW V., BILLOWING Adj.

swelling out in waves, surging

- ✍ The billowing emotions across the country may lead to war.

BINGO N., Interjection

a game, an expression of unexpectedness

- ✍ I was just about to borrow some money when bingo! - I won the lottery.

BIOPSY N.

the removal and examination of tissue, cells or fluid from a living body

- ✍ After studying the biopsy report, the doctor assured the patient that the growth was benign.

BISECT – to cut into two (usually equal) parts

- ☑ **Syn.** break in two, split
- ★ **Ant.** join, unite
- ✍ The new road bisected the forest, putting all the small animals at risk.

BIVOUAC N., V.

a temporary shelter or camp, tent

- ✍ The first time I slept outdoors was when we had to spend the night in a bivouac in the last year of school.

BIZARRE Adj.

striking; out of ordinary

- ☑ **Syn.** fantastic, extravagant, eccentric
- ✍ Most fashion designers present bizarre creations.

BLANCH V.

bleach, whiten; to parboil in water or steam in order to remove the skin

- ☑ **Syn.** grow pale, lighten, blench
- ✍ Use blanched almonds for this recipe.

BLAND Adj.

smooth, gentle, suave, polite, mild

- ☑ **Syn.** insipid, weak, tasteless, plain
- ★ **Ant.** spicy, piquant, peppery, zesty
- ✍ Continental food is too bland for the Indian palate.

BLANDISHMENT N.

coaxing, cajoling, flattering, adulation

- ✍ Despite the blandishments offered by the salesman, she resisted buying the product.

BLARE V., N.

to roar, to sound harshly, loud, flamboyance

- ☑ **Syn.** blast, boom, make a racket
- ✍ The blaring horns of the truck will make you deaf one day.
- ✍ His attire this evening is nothing but a blare.

BLASPHEMY N. BLASPHEMOUS Adj.

words/actions meant to mock something, profane speaking, swearing about something sacred, irreverence, cursing

- ☑ **Syn.** desecration, impiety, sacrilege
- ★ **Ant.** faithfulness, godliness, piety
- ☒ Blasphemy is punishable by death in certain fundamentalist countries.
- ☒ Salman Rushdie earned the “fatwa” for his allegedly blasphemous writings.

BLATANT

glaring, obvious, showy

- ☑ **Syn.** shameless, evident
- ★ **Ant.** subtle, inconspicuous
- ☒ The building was constructed in blatant violation of the law.

BLEAK Adj.

colourless, cold, depressing, grim

- ☑ **Syn.** barren, exposed, gaunt, open
- ★ **Ant.** cheerful, happy, smiling, joyful
- ☒ The chances of a majority government at the centre has now become bleak.

BLEMISH N., V.

flaw, stain, defect, scar, blot

- ☑ **Syn.** mark, imperfection, fault, blotch
- ☒ Morarjibhai's 75 years in public life were without a blemish.

BLISS N.

the highest happiness, heavenly happiness

- ☑ **Syn.** ecstasy, paradise, delight
- ★ **Ant.** misery, sadness, grief, sorrow
- ☒ It's bliss to be able to lie back and just forget all about your worries.

BLITHE Adj.

cheerful, sprightly, gay, joyous, merry, casual, lighthearted

- ☑ **Syn.** carefree, unconcerned, happy
- ★ **Ant.** tense, anxious, bothered, edgy
- ☒ He blithely ignored the warning and swam out far from the shore.

BLITZ or BLITZKRIEG N.

a sudden, overwhelming attack; an intensive aerial campaign

- ☑ **Syn.** raid, bombardment, onslaught
- ☒ The Israeli blitzkrieg at Entebbe remains a landmark rescue operation.
- ☒ The launch of the new car was accompanied by a media blitz involving newspapers, magazines, television and radio.

BLOAT V. BLOATED Adj.

to swell out, to puff out, to dilate

- ☑ **Syn.** inflate, blow up, expand, distend
- ☒ The doctor said her face was looking bloated because of water retention.

BLOND (also BLONDE) N., Adj.

a person of fair complexion and golden, light auburn coloured hair

- ☑ **Syn.** fair haired, pale, flaxen
- ☒ Blondes are generally considered beautiful.
- ☒ Meg Ryan's blonde hair gels well with her personality.

BLUSH V.

to grow red out of shame and confusion

- ☑ **Syn.** go red, flush, colour, redden
- ★ **Ant.** blench, draw back, falter, recoil
- ☒ He blushed profusely when she asked him out for dinner.

BLUSTER V., N.

to talk or act with noisy swaggering threats, threaten empty, bully

- ☑ **Syn.** harangue, bulldoze, rant, bristle
- ☒ The bully was all bluster and no substance.
- ☒ Many found Fidel Castro's blusters against the USA quite amusing.

BOG V., N.

marsh, morass, swamp, slow down

- ☑ **Syn.** marshland, quagmire, retard
- ☒ The expansion plans of the company have been bogged down by certain controversies.

BOGGLING Adj.

something astounding, astonishing, amazing

- ☒ Many mind-boggling problems in LR section of CAT 2004 were responsible for the student's poor performance.

BOHEMIAN N.

someone who sets social conventions aside, an artist, unconventional, unorthodox

- ☒ Maqbool Fida Hussein is known for his Bohemian ways.

BOISTEROUS Adj.

wild, noisy and exuberant; turbulent, violent, rough

- ☑ **Syn.** clamorous, obstreperous
- ★ **Ant.** quiet, shy, timid
- ☒ The children were having a boisterous game in the playground.

BOLERO N.

a Spanish dance ; a loose waist-length jacket open at the front

- ☒ Sofia looked beautiful in a beige bolero.
- ☒ There is a bolero being performed at the night-club tonight.

BOLSTER V.

to support, to give a boost to, reinforce

- ☑ **Syn.** boost, strengthen, encourage
- ★ **Ant.** undermine, weaken, challenge
- ☒ Her confidence in group discussions is bolstered by many practice sessions.

BOMBASTIC

using high-sounding but meaningless words

- ☑ **Syn.** pompous, grandiloquent
- ★ **Ant.** simple, unpretentious
- ✗ The dictator's speeches were mostly bombastic; his outrageous claims had no basis in fact.

BONANZA

extremely large amount; something profitable

- ☑ **Syn.** godsend, windfall
- ✗ Julie was not sure how to use the bonanza when she won the lottery.

BONHOMIE N., BONHOMOUS Adj.

good-natured easy friendliness

- ☑ **Syn.** geniality, affability
- ✗ An atmosphere of bonhomie prevailed at the dance party.

BOON – blessing, something to be thankful for

- ☑ **Syn.** godsend, bonus
- ★ **Ant.** curse, disadvantage
- ✗ Deepak realised that the new employee's artistic skills would be a real boon to the company.

BOOMERANG V., N.

rebound, backfire; a bent or angular throwing club

- ☑ **Syn.** bounce back, ricochet
- ✗ It was ironic that the Vietnam war boomeranged on the USA.

BOOR

crude person, one lacking manners or taste

- ☑ **Syn.** lout, ruffian
- ★ **Ant.** gentlemanly, well-behaved
- ✗ He behaved like a boor, disturbing the recital with his continuous chatter.

BOOZE V., N.

to drink excessively

- ✗ They always go boozing after their football match.
- ✗ There's a party at my hostel room on Friday night – bring some booze.

BOULEVARD N.

a broad road bordered by trees, channel, promenade

- ☑ **Syn.** avenue, thoroughfare, drive
- ✗ The boulevards of Paris remain unparalleled in terms of beauty.

BOUNTY N., BOUNTIFUL Adj.

liberality in bestowing gifts

- ☑ **Syn.** reward, prize, payment, generosity
- ✗ The bounty of politicians at the election-time is no longer a secret.
- ✗ The bountiful harvest this year has brought smiles to many a face.

BOURSE N.

a European stock exchange

- ✗ There has been a rise in the number of bourses operating in Europe.

BOURGEOIS

middle-class

- ☑ **Syn.** conservative, materialistic
- ★ **Ant.** proletarian, communist
- ✗ The bourgeois family found it too difficult to adjust to the new working-class neighbours.

BOUT N.

contest, encounter, outbreak

- ☑ **Syn.** short period, spell, attack, fit
- ✗ This first bout with destiny made him maturer.
- ✗ He suffered from a bout of bronchitis.

BOVINE Adj.

like cow/cattle, dull, placid

- ✗ Democracy is wasted on the bovine and the asinine.
- ✗ He was a gentle, rather bovine man.

BOWDLERIZE V.

to remove objectionable material from a writing, to censor

- ☑ **Syn.** cut, abridge, expurgate, amend
- ✗ So far Taslima Nasreen has refused to bowdlerize 'Lajja'.

BRACKISH Adj.

somewhat saline, rather salty, unappealing

- ☑ **Syn.** salty, briny
- ✗ Though the water in those marshes is brackish and foul-smelling to us, the birds seem to like it.
- ✗ Rahul even sipped the brackish tea prepared by his fiancée.

BRAGGADOCIO N.

arrogant pretension, braggart

- ☑ **Syn.** braggart, cockiness
- ✗ Rahul's braggadocio was beginning to irritate his girlfriend.

BRANDISH V.

to wave and show as a weapon, flourish

- ☑ **Syn.** swing, wave about
- ✗ Brandishing black flags, the protesters gheraoed the minister.

BRASH Adj., BRASHNESS N.

reckless, impetuous, impudent, audacious

- ☑ **Syn.** hasty, foolhardy, aggressive
- ★ **Ant.** sluggish, unhurried, measured
- ✗ The manager's brashness was the cause of the company's failure.
- ✗ Don't you think that suit is a bit brash for a funeral?

BRAVADO N.

a display of bravery, false show of bravery, swagger, assumed air of defiance

- ☑ **Syn.** boldness, daring
- ✗ It was an act of bravado that made him ask his boss to resign.

BRAZEN

bold, shameless, impudent, of or like brass

- ☑ **Syn.** immodest, abashed
- ★ **Ant.** modest, shy
- ⌘ The coach found the declaration to be rather brazen but hoped his cricket team would pull off a win.

BREACH

act of breaking, violation

- ☑ **Syn.** contravention, infringement
- ★ **Ant.** bridge, upholding
- ⌘ The record company sued the singer for breach of contract when he recorded for another company.

BREVITY N.

conciseness, shortness, terseness

- ☑ **Syn.** briefness, concision, pithiness
- ★ **Ant.** length, span
- ⌘ Brevity is the hallmark of a seasoned orator.

BREW V., N.

to prepare by infusion, boiling and fermentation, to plot; a beverage 'concoction made by brewing'

- ☑ **Syn.** make, ferment, distil, blend
- ⌘ Caesar hardly realised what was brewing behind his back.
- ⌘ This local brew is one of the strongest liquors I have ever had.

BRIC-A-BRAC N.

old curiosities, knickknacks, ornaments etc.

- ⌘ Tourists flock to chor-bazaar for buying bric-a-brac.

BRINK N.

cliff-top, edge, verge

- ⌘ Indian economy was on the brink of disaster in 1990.

BRISK Adj.

full of life and spirit, lively

- ☑ **Syn.** bustling, busy, energetic, lively
- ★ **Ant.** slow, sluggish, dawdling
- ⌘ The cardiologist advised a brisk walk in the evening.

BROACH V., N.

to veer or yaw dangerously, to pierce for withdrawing the contents, to open up

- ☑ **Syn.** mention, bring up, approach
- ⌘ During his visit, the PM is expected to broach the subject of foreign investment.

BROOD V., N.

to meditate silently, to think anxiously for sometime; the young of an animal or a family

- ☑ **Syn.** clutch, litter
- ⌘ Shantanu sat at his desk, brooding darkly why she left him.

BROOK V., N.

tolerate, endure; a creek

- ☑ **Syn.** stream, rivulet, accept
- ⌘ I could not just brook the delay.
- ⌘ A five-star hotel along a brook appears to be a wonderful idea.

BROTHEL N.

a building where prostitutes are available

- ⌘ Brothels have been in existence since early ages, catering to man's baser needs.

BRUISE N., V.

contusion, discolouration, sore spot,

- ☑ **Syn.** shiner, bump
- ⌘ His ego was bruised when his sister outperformed him in tennis.
- ⌘ She suffered a few cuts and bruises but nothing serious.

BRUSQUE Adj.

abrupt, blunt in manners, cheeky, impudent, short, usually unpleasant in effect, curt

- ☑ **Syn.** offhand, rough, brisk, gruff
- ★ **Ant.** civil, social, national, communal
- ⌘ The brusque young son of the old lady met a tragic end.

BUCKLE V., N.

to catch, clasp, bend, acquiesce, yield

- ☑ **Syn.** clip, fastener, collapse, crumple
- ★ **Ant.** undo, unfasten, untie, unbutton
- ⌘ It's the weak who buckle under threats.

BUCOLIC Adj.

related to cattle-tending, pastoral, rustic, rural

- ☑ **Syn.** pastoral, country, countrified
- ★ **Ant.** urban, municipal, metropolitan
- ⌘ Thanks to the government's heavy subsidies, bucolic pursuits earn handsome returns.

BUFFET (v)

to toss about

(n) – a meal consisting of several dishes from which guests serve themselves

- ☑ **Syn.** batter, strike repeatedly and violently
- ⌘ The swing, buffeted by the wind, smashed into the tree and broke.

BUFFOON N., BUFFOONERY N.

a person always joking, clown, joker, jester

- ☑ **Syn.** clown, joker, comedian
- ⌘ Chaplin's buffoonery was an effective tool of biting sarcasm.
- ⌘ Doesn't he get tired of playing the buffoon in class?

BULGE V., N.

project, protrude, jut, overhang, swell, dilate

- ☑ **Syn.** protuberance, knot, hump
- ⌘ Come forties and the battle of the bulge begins.
- ⌘ Flesh bulged out where the elasticated clothing was too tight.

BULLDOZE V.

to intimidate, to bully, to demolish, push, jostle

- ☑ **Syn.** flatten, raze, level, clear, force
- ✗ Bulldozing may win you the game but never the match.

BULLION (*BOOLYEN*) N.

gold and silver in the shape of rods or bars

- ☑ **Syn.** gold, gold bars, gold ingots
- ✗ The bullion market came under attack as soon as news of war spread.

BULLY N., V.

a cruel oppressor of the weak, an overbearing fellow

- ☑ **Syn.** blackmailer, intimidator
- ✗ Being an international bully, the USA knows its strengths only too well.
- ✗ Bipasha bullied her way into the meeting.

BULWARK

defense wall, anything serving as defense

- ☑ **Syn.** fortification, barricade
- ✗ The villagers used logs to construct a bulwark against the invading army.

BUMPTIOUS Adj.

egotistic, often irritatingly self-assured, pushy, arrogant, unpleasantly confident

- ☑ **Syn.** boastful, arrogant, brash
- ★ **Ant.** modest, diffident, humble, meek
- ✗ Often, Ravindra comes across as a bumptious teenager but he's really thoughtful and intelligent.

BUNGLE V., N.

to do a job clumsily or awkwardly, goof up

- ☑ **Syn.** botch, mismanage, ruin
- ★ **Ant.** succeed, thrive, make it
- ✗ Our tour operators really bungled - they booked us on the wrong flight!
- ✗ Your bungle is going to cost the company dearly.

BURGEON

to sprout or flourish

- ☑ **Syn.** proliferate, prosper
- ★ **Ant.** shrink, wither
- ✗ We will need a major expansion to accommodate the burgeoning population of the city.

BURGLAR N.

housebreaker, raider, sneak thief, intruder

- ☑ **Syn.** robber, criminal
- ✗ The anti-burglar alarm system failed last night.

BURLESQUE N.

ludicrous imitation, cheap or vulgar entertainment, satire, a literary or dramatic work making fun or ridiculing by comic exaggeration, a mockery or caricature, an imitation that ridicules

- ☑ **Syn.** caricature, travesty, lampoon
- ✗ Street theatre often attempts the burlesque but rarely succeeds.

BURNISH V., N.

to make bright or lustrous by rubbing

- ☑ **Syn.** shine, wax, buff, rub, clean
- ✗ The car lost its burnish in a year.
- ✗ A proper coach can burnish your skills in no time.

BUST V.

to break, shatter, crack, arrest

- ☑ **Syn.** out of order, broken
- ★ **Ant.** mend, repair, fix, restore
- ✗ The police busted the gang of drug dealers gang.
- ✗ Mary and her boyfriend bust up last week.

BUTTRESS N., V.

a support, foundation, base

- ☑ **Syn.** prop, reinforcement, bolster
- ✗ Soon after the church was built buttresses had to be built along the south wall because it was beginning to collapse.

BUXOM Adj.

vigorously or healthily plump, full bosomed

- ✗ A scantily dressed buxom blonde attracted the crowd towards the new car she was promoting in the trade fair.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. benefactor | a. carefree |
| 2. benign | b. middle class |
| 3. blatant | c. donor |
| 4. blithe | d. not harmful |
| 5. bourgeois | e. offensively noisy |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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