

“H”

HACKNEYED

worn out by overuse

☑ **Syn.** clichéd, vapid

★ **Ant.** original, fresh

☞ We always mock the old man for his hackneyed expressions and dated style.

HAEMATOLOGY N.

study of blood

☞ Haematology has come centre-stage due to the rampant spread of AIDS.

HAEMORRHAGE

heavy bleeding

☞ The haemorrhage would have killed the soldier but for the brave nurse's timely action.

HAGGARD N.

an untamed hawk; wild in appearance

☑ **Syn.** worn, fatigued, tired, faded

★ **Ant.** fresh, new, clean, bright

☞ After hours of dragging out bodies from the mangled train compartments, the rescuers were looking haggard and distraught.

HALCYON Adj.

calm, peaceful

☑ **Syn.** untroubled, calm, peaceful, happy, golden

★ **Ant.** turbulent, confused, unstable

☞ The statistics that you are quoting about the company are of its halcyon days.

HALLOW V., HALLOWED Adj.

to make holy, venerate

☑ **Syn.** consecrate, sanctify, bless

★ **Ant.** damage, vandalise, defile, despoil

☞ My mother hallows the *puja room* every morning by sprinkling *gangajal*.

☞ It was a dream come true as I walked through the hallowed portals of IIMA.

HALLUCINATION N., HALLUCINATE V.

a delusion, a perception without objective reality

☑ **Syn.** vision, illusion, phantasm

☞ I hallucinated that a big spider was spinning its web around me.

HAMLET N.

a cluster of houses, community, village

☑ **Syn.** settlement, small town

☞ She used to live in a remote hamlet consisting of just 20 houses and a temple.

HANGAR N.

a shelter for aircraft

☑ **Syn.** shed, barn, store, storage place

☞ The plane had to be parked in the open as there was no room in the hangar.

HAPLESS Adj.

unlucky, unfortunate

☑ **Syn.** ill-fated, luckless

★ **Ant.** fortunate, happy, privileged

☞ Rural people are often the hapless victims of government apathy.

HARA-KIRI N.

Japanese way of committing suicide by disembowelment

☞ If the company raises its prices, it will be committing economic hara-kiri.

HARANGUE N.

a loud, pompous speech

☑ **Syn.** berate, criticize, sermonize

☞ At the railway station, a drunk was haranguing the passers-by.

HARBINGER N.

a pioneer, forerunner, herald, precursor

☑ **Syn.** portend, omen, indication

☞ Einstein was the harbinger of the concept of relativity.

HARDY

robust, vigorous

☑ **Syn.** sturdy, rugged

★ **Ant.** delicate, tender

☞ Heena was a strong, hardy girl who beat up her elder brothers every day.

HARROW V., HARROWING Adj.

to torment, vex ; acutely painful or distressing, agonising

☑ **Syn.** torture

★ **Ant.** comfort, ease

✍ Foreign tourists, especially Americans, are frequently harrowed in Islamic countries.

✍ I find his firsthand accounts of torture too harrowing.

HAUGHTY

arrogant and condescending

☑ **Syn.** vain, conceited

★ **Ant.** modest, humble

✍ The teacher resented Sita's haughty attitude and gave her a D grade for the semester.

HAUTEUR N.

arrogance, haughtiness

☑ **Syn.** conceit, pride, overconfidence

★ **Ant.** modesty, diffidence, reticence

✍ He presided over the first meeting with his customary detached hauteur.

HAVEN N.

a retreat or asylum

☑ **Syn.** refuge, safe place, sanctuary

✍ They wanted to provide a safe haven for the refugees.

HEADLONG Adv.

hasty, rash

☑ **Syn.** headfirst, recklessly

✍ He involves himself headlong in the affairs of others.

✍ In the headlong rush to buy houses, many people got into debt.

HEADSTRONG Adj.

stubborn, wilful, unyielding

☑ **Syn.** determined, pigheaded

★ **Ant.** docile, tractable, compliant

✍ Everybody calls her headstrong but she is one of the boldest in her group.

HEATHEN

pagan, uncivilised and irreligious

☑ **Syn.** atheist, uncouth

★ **Ant.** religious, devout

✍ The missionaries considered it their duty to convert as many of the heathen natives as possible.

HECKLE V.

to harass with questions, challenges and gibes

✍ The old inmates hackled the new one and that added to his woes.

HEDONISM

pursuit of pleasure as a goal

☑ **Syn.** immoderation, affluence

★ **Ant.** aversion, abhorrence

✍ Sanjeev lay on the couch eating cookies all day, claiming hedonism was his philosophy of life.

HEGEMONY N., HEGEMONIC Adj.

leadership, preponderant influence

☑ **Syn.** domination, control, supremacy

★ **Ant.** subservience, surrender

✍ The three nations competed for regional hegemony.

HEINOUS

shocking, wicked, terrible

☑ **Syn.** atrocious, reprehensible

★ **Ant.** pardonable, admirable

✍ Nobody could believe that the baby-sitter had committed the heinous crime.

HENCHMAN N.

a servant, a right hand man, usually doing unlawful work for someone

✍ Like other politicians, he tried to distance himself from the dirty deeds carried out by his henchmen.

HERALD V.

to usher in, to proclaim

☑ **Syn.** messenger, bearer of news, publicise

✍ The silicon chip heralded a new era in computer technology.

HERCULEAN Adj.

very tough, arduous, superhuman

☑ **Syn.** phenomenal, prodigious, heroic

★ **Ant.** normal, usual, standard, regular

✍ Plagued by several crises and many recent electoral defeats, the party requires nothing short of a herculean effort from its new leader to turn things around.

HERMETIC

tightly sealed

✍ The hermetic seal preserved the contents of the jar for a long time.

HETERODOX Adj., HETERODOXY N.

unorthodox, unconventional

☑ **Syn.** heretical, profane, sacrilegious

✍ Famous for his heterodox ideas, Kabir was a darling of the masses.

HEW

to cut with an axe

☑ **Syn.** chop down, hack down

✍ Varun hewed down the trees in order to build a cabin.

HEYDAY N.

the best period in performance, vigour and prosperity

☑ **Syn.** prime, zenith, glory days

✍ In his heyday, Jitendra was Bollywood's most polished dancer.

HIATUS N.

a break in continuity, a gap, a lapse in action

☑ **Syn.** pause, interruption

✍ Tourists are once again visiting Kashmir after a long hiatus caused by terrorism.

HIDEBOUND

excessively rigid, dry and stiff

- ☑ **Syn.** conservative, orthodox
- ★ **Ant.** liberal, broad-minded
- ⌘ The hidebound old patriarch would not tolerate any opposition to his orders.

HIDEOUS Adj.

offensive to the senses, grotesque, gruesome

- ☑ **Syn.** ugly, repugnant, shocking
- ⌘ The new concrete structures look so hideous next to the simple huts in the serene village.

HIEROGLYPHIC N.

picture writing

- ⌘ The hieroglyphics on the walls of the pyramid warned everyone of the danger inside.

HILARIOUS Adj., **HILARITY** N.

very funny, jolly, merry

- ☑ **Syn.** amusing, comical, entertaining
- ★ **Ant.** serious, grave, weighty
- ⌘ Hilarity is improper on serious occasions.
- ⌘ He tries to flirt with women half his age, with hilarious results.

HINDSIGHT

perception of events after they happen

- ⌘ In hindsight, Harish realised that eating the entire box of chocolates was probably not a wise idea.

HINTERLAND N.

a region lying inland from the coast

- ⌘ The hinterland of our country is very fertile and produces a number of crops.

HIRSUTE Adj., **HIRSUTISM** N.

hairy, rough, shaggy, bristly

- ☑ **Syn.** bushy, furry,
- ★ **Ant.** bald, hairless, receding, plain
- ⌘ The baby looked rather hirsute but the doctor assured the new parents that there was no cause for worry.

HISPANIC Adj.

of Spanish origin, of Spain and other Spanish speaking countries

- ⌘ The Hispanic culture is ancient and rich.

HISTRIONIC Adj.

dramatic, affected, of acting or drama, sometimes overly dramatic, theatrical

- ☑ **Syn.** theatrical, exaggerated, insincere
- ★ **Ant.** restrained, reserved, controlled
- ⌘ Her histrionics, obviously borrowed from Hindi films, fooled no one.

HOARY

very old, whitish or gray from age

- ☑ **Syn.** venerable, hackneyed
- ★ **Ant.** original, young
- ⌘ The old man's hoary beard contrasted starkly with the new stubble of the teenager.

HOAX N.

a trick, practical joke, deception

- ☑ **Syn.** flimflam, humbug
- ⌘ Unfortunately some virus threats are a hoax and simply cause some panic with no real damage.

HOBBLE V., N.

to walk unsteadily or awkwardly

- ☑ **Syn.** limp, hop, shamle, totter
- ⌘ The beggar hobbling along the road presented a painful sight.

HOBSON'S CHOICE

an offer where you really have no alternative, the choice between a thing offered and nothing

- ⌘ When it came to food, the canteen offered us a Hobson's choice.

HOI POLLOI (Greek)

crowd, masses, general public

- ☑ **Syn.** rabble, commoners
- ★ **Ant.** elite
- ⌘ Amitabh will be in the VIP lounge where he doesn't have to mix with the hoi polloi.

HOLISTIC

emphasising importance of the whole and interdependence of its parts

- ⌘ Dr Anu Khanna believes in a holistic approach to healing.

HOLOCAUST

widespread destruction, usually by fire

- ☑ **Syn.** catastrophe, disaster
- ⌘ The city was utterly destroyed by the holocaust.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. grandiose | a. uniform |
| 2. gregarious | b. overused |
| 3. hackneyed | c. sociable |
| 4. hapless | d. absurdly exaggerated |
| 5. homogenous | e. unlucky |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

HOMAGE

public honour and respect

☑ **Syn.** tribute, eulogy

★ **Ant.** criticism, cynicism

✗ Upon arriving at the village, the warriors paid homage to its chief.

HOMICIDE N.

manslaughter, murder

☑ **Syn.** killing, slaughter

✗ The young man was arrested for homicide.

HOMOGENEOUS

composed of identical parts

☑ **Syn.** consistent, uniform

★ **Ant.** heterogeneous, dissimilar

✗ Finland was a very homogenous country until immigrants began to settle there several decades ago.

HOMONYM

word identical in pronunciation and spelling but different in meaning

✗ "Right" as in the direction and "right" meaning "correct" are homonyms.

HONE

to sharpen

☑ **Syn.** strop, grind

★ **Ant.** blunt, dull

✗ You might want to hone your writing skills before filling out college applications.

HONORARIUM N.

a voluntary fee paid to a person for his professional services

✗ We usually offer our visiting lecturers an honorarium of Rs.500 per hour.

HOOLIGAN N., HOOLIGANISM N.

a young, violent, rude person

☑ **Syn.** punk, gorilla, ruffian, hoodlum

✗ The police warned the hooligan and let him go.

✗ Hooliganism is the norm of the day when these rioting football fans meet.

HORDE N.

crowd

☑ **Syn.** crowd, mass, gang, group, pack

✗ Hordes of his admirers await his entry on the stage.

✗ When they heard the concert was free, they came in hordes.

HORS D'OEUVRE

savoury like olives, sardines etc. to whet the appetite before a meal

✗ The hors d'oeuvre tasted better than the main course at the dinner.

HOUND V.

to chase and harass, hassle, intimidate, persecute

☑ **Syn.** pursue, pester, persecute

✗ All celebrities are hounded by the press.

HOVER V.

to hang fluttering in the air, wait nearby

☑ **Syn.** float, drift, linger

✗ The plane kept hovering for an hour before landing.

HUBBUB N.

confused uproar

☑ **Syn.** noise, racket, hullabaloo, din

✗ I could hardly hear myself speak above the hubbub in the resto-bar.

HUBRIS N.

arrogance, excessive self-conceit

✗ Humility can take you places but hubris often lands you in the debris.

HUDDLE V.

to crowd together in disorder

☑ **Syn.** group, cluster, knot, bend

✗ The frightened monkeys huddled in their cage.

HUMANE

merciful, kindly

☑ **Syn.** compassionate, sympathetic

★ **Ant.** cruel, inhumane

✗ The camp commander ensured that all prisoners of war received humane treatment.

HUMBUG N.

something designed to deceive or mislead, pretense

☑ **Syn.** hypocrisy, insincerity, lip service

★ **Ant.** sincerity, honesty, authenticity

✗ The government's claim that it did not know about the arms deal is a lot of humbug.

HUMDRUM Adj.

dull, monotonous

☑ **Syn.** boring, routine, everyday

★ **Ant.** exciting, thrilling, stirring

✗ After the metropolis, he found life in the small town quite humdrum.

HUSBANDRY N.

frugality, thrift, agriculture, careful use of resources, conservation

✗ Thanks to his husbandry, they were not short of food even when the war prolonged.

✗ He gave a lecture on crop and animal husbandry.

HUTCH

pen or coop for animals, shack, shanty

✗ The rabbits bred so rapidly that they outgrew their hutch in no time.

HYGIENIC

clean, sanitary

☑ **Syn.** antiseptic, sterilised

★ **Ant.** dirty, insanitary

⌘ Hygienic living conditions help to keep infections away.

HYMN (HIM) N.

a song of praise

☑ **Syn.** song, chant, mantra, tune

⌘ The school choir sang the hymns very well at the festival.

HYPERBOLE N.

wild exaggeration, often deliberate

☑ **Syn.** overstatement

★ **Ant.** understatement, irony, dryness

⌘ The blurb at the back was full of the usual hyperbole, but the book was a disappointment.

HYPOCHONDRIA N.

morbid anxiety about health, imaginary illness

⌘ She was worried that her doctor would accuse her of hypochondria.

HYPOCRITE

person claiming beliefs or virtues he or she doesn't really possess

☑ **Syn.** phony, pretender

⌘ The doctor who advised his patients to stay away from tobacco was called a hypocrite when he was caught smoking.

HYPOTHESIS

assumption subject to proof

☑ **Syn.** conjecture, supposition

⌘ It's an interesting hypothesis, but I'll need proof.

HYPOTHETICAL

theoretical, speculative

☑ **Syn.** conjectured, imagined

★ **Ant.** real, actual

⌘ The official claimed that his radical forecast was based on hypothetical situations.

HYSTERIA N., HYSTERICAL Adj.

an outbreak of wild emotions, panic, chaos, frenzy

☑ **Syn.** panic, hysterics, frenzy, madness

★ **Ant.** calm, serenity, quietness, peace

⌘ There is hysteria among teenagers and pop music lovers over the arrival of Michael Jackson.

⌘ There is always a hysterical crowd at the stadium during an Indo-Pak cricket match.

Business, Economics, and Finance

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

ACCRUE	:	to accumulate over time (e.g., interest or money owing)
BULLISH	:	characterized by rising share prices on Stock Exchange
EMBARGO	:	an official prohibition or restriction of foreign trade by one nation against another
ESCROW	:	a temporary account established to hold funds pending the completion of investment or purchase transaction
HEDGE	:	to offset the risk of loss (e.g.; from market price fluctuations)
PECUNIARY	:	financial; monetary
RED HERRING	:	something especially a clue, which is intended to be misleading or distracting
SCRIVENER	:	a professional or public copyist, scribe, or notary
SURETY	:	one who guarantees the performance (e.g., payment) on behalf of another
USURIOUS	:	referring to an extremely high or unlawful rate of interest