

# ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

One word substitution is a technique of using one word/item for a phrase. There is a great deal of terms in English Language, each of which does the work of numerous other lengthy phrases.

### Example :

Take the words – ‘educated’ and ‘uneducated’; a student who does not know these words may write a sentence like.

John cannot read and write but his servant can read and write.

But if you know the right words you will write :

John is uneducated but his servant is educated.

It is always better to express one's ideas in as few words as possible; particularly in written English. The replacement of short terms for longer phrases plays a vital role in this art of concise writing.

Now we can say, ‘One word substitutions’ as the phrase indicates itself are the words that replace group of words or a full sentence. Like the word “Autobiography” can be used in place of the sentence, “The life story of a man written by himself”. It is very important to write precisely and speak in a single word.

Precise words are always understood easily by all.

In English language there are a lot of single words for a group of words that can be used effectively to make the writing to the point that too without losing the meaning of the context.

### Examples :

- A person who is above hundred years : Centenarian
- After the death of the originator : Posthumous
- One who speaks less : Reticent
- Worship of idols : Idolatry
- A book written by unknown author : Anonymous
- Work for which no salary is paid : Honorary
- A contagious disease which spreads over a huge area : Epidemic
- One who is unable to pay his debts : Insolvent
- A study of races : Ethology
- Belonging to the Middle Ages : Medieval
- Hard but liable to be easily broken : Brittle
- Inscription on a tombstone : Epitaph
- Murder of human being : Homicide
- Murder of an infant : Infanticide
- Of animals feeding on grass and plants : Herbivorous
- One who believes in fate : Fatalist
- One who changes side : Turncoat

- One who goes on foot : Pedestrian
- One who looks on the bright side of things : Optimist
- One who questions everything : Cynic
- People who work together : Colleagues
- Science of origin of universe : Cosmology
- Something that has been determined : Foregone/ beforehand
- That is prohibited by law : Illicit
- That which cannot be satisfied : Insatiable
- The period between childhood and adulthood : Adolescence
- To transfer one's authority to another : Delegate
- To write under a different name : Pseudonym
- That which is unlikely to happen : Improbable
- That which cannot be limited : Illimitable
- A place of washing dishes adjoining kitchen : Scullery
- A religious song : Hymn
- A remarkable talent : Prodigy
- A short but amusing story : Anecdote
- A verse letter : Epistle
- An animal story with a moral : Fable
- Animals living on land and in water : Amphibian
- Appointment by two parties to settle a dispute : Arbiter
- Art of cutting tree and bushes into shape : Topiary
- At the same time : Contemporary
- Award given after death : Posthumous
- Borrow ideas and steal other's words is called : Plagiarism
- Care taker of a public building : Custodian
- Change one's mind too quickly : Vacillation
- Congratulate somebody in formal manner : Felicitate
- Contempt of God : Blasphemy
- Creature having both male and female organs : Hermaphrodite
- Cure for all disease : Panacea
- Custom of having many husbands : Polyandry
- Custom of having many wives : Polygamy
- Disease which is spread by contact : Contagious
- Favours own kith and kin : Nepotism
- Fear of bathing : Ablutophobia
- Fear of becoming bald : Phalacrophobia
- Fear of being robbed : Harpaxophobia
- Fear of cockroaches : Katsaridaphobia
- Fear of crowd : Ochlophobia
- Fear of darkness : Lygophobia
- Fear of death : Nicrophobia
- Fear of dentist : Dentophobia



• Fear of disease	: Pathophobia	• One who is the most powerful	: Omnipotent
• Fear of failure	: Atychiphobia	• One who is very careful and particular	: Meticulous
• Fear of foreigners	: Xenophobia	• One who lends money at high rate	: Usurer
• Fear of God	: Zeusophobia	• One who loves books	: Bibliophile
• Fear of going to bed	: Clinophobia	• One who pretends illness to escape duty	: Malingerer
• Fear of height	: Acrophobia	• One who sacrifices his life for country	: Martyr
• Fear of making decisions	: Decidophobia	• One who sneaks into a country	: Infiltrator
• Fear of poverty	: Peniaphobia	• One who speaks many languages	: Polyglot
• Fear of property	: Orthophobia	• One who studies skin and its diseases	: Dermatologist
• Fear of radiation	: Radiophobia	• One who studies the formation of the earth	: Geologist
• Fear of riding a car	: Amaxophobia	• One who talks continuously	: Loquacious
• Fear of school	: Scolionophobia	• One who thinks human nature is evil	: Cynic
• Fear of speaking	: Lalophobia	• One who totally abstain from alcohol	: Teetotaler
• Fear of speed	: Tachophobia	• One who travels from place to place	: Itinerant
• Fear of water	: Hydrophobia	• Person of odd habits	: Eccentric
• Fear of words	: Logophobia	• Person who dances to the tunes of his wife	: Henpecked
• Giving up throne by the king	: Abdication	• Person behind time	: Antiquated
• Go back and forth	: Shuttle	• Person obsessed with one idea or subject	: Monomaniac
• Government by a single person	: Autocracy	• Person pretending to be somebody he is not	: Imposter
• Government by the Gods	: Theocracy	• Person who believes others	: Credulous
• Government run by a dictator	: Autocracy	• Person who enjoys sensuous enjoyments	: Epicure
• In-charge of museum /Pitch	: Curator	• Person who hates women	: Misogynist
• Indifference to pleasure or pain	: Stoicism	• Person who holds scholarship at a university	: Bursar
• Intentional destruction of racial group	: Genocide	• Person who is always dissatisfied	: Malcontent
• Language difficult to understand	: Jargon	• Person who is made to bear the blame	: Scapegoat
• Large scale departure of people	: Exodus	• Person who kill others for political reason	: Assassin
• List of explanation of words	: Glossary	• Person who lives alone and avoids other people	: Recluse
• Loud talk or speech	: Harangue	• Person who makes love for amusement	: Philanderer
• Mania for setting fires	: Pyromania	• Person who pretends to have more knowledge	: Charlatan
• Mania for stealing things	: Kleptomania	• Person with a beautiful handwriting	: Calligrapher
• Mania for travel	: Dromomania	• Person without manners	: Rustic
• Mania of being important	: Megalomania	• Place where birds are kept	: Aviary
• Murdering of a family	: Familicide	• Place where cows are sheltered	: Byre
• Murdering of Brother	: Fratricide	• Place where women dwelled (Ancient time):	: Harem
• Murdering of husband by his wife	: Mariticide	• Place which provides both board and lodging	: Inn
• Murdering of the king	: Regicide	• Place where weapons are made and stored	: Arsenal
• Murdering of tyrant	: Tyrannicide	• Poem narrating a popular story	: Ballad
• One who collects coins	: Numismatist	• Poem written on the death of someone loved:	: Elegy
• One who compiles dictionary	: Lexicographer	• Policy of political party	: Manifesto
• One who cuts precious stones	: Lapidist	• Power of reading thoughts of others	: Telepathy
• One who deserts his religion	: Apostate	• Ride on someone else back	: Piggyback
• One who does not care for literature	: Philistine	• Short journey made by a group of persons:	: Excursion
• One who does not take definite stand	: Evasive	• Short walk for pleasure or exercise	: Stroll
• One who draws maps and charts	: Cartographer	• Speech by an actor at the end of play	: Epilogue
• One who eats everything	: Omnivorous	• Speech without preparation	: Extempore
• One who eats human flesh	: Cannibal	• Stories of old time Gods and heroes	: Legend
• One who fights for the sake of money	: Mercenary	• Study of ancient science	: Archaeology
• One who forsakes religion	: Renegade	• Study of birds	: Ornithology
• One who has many talents	: Versatile	• Study of human body	: Anatomy
• One who has suddenly gained new wealth	: Parvenu	• Study of mankind	: Anthropology
• One who has enthusiasm for one's country	: Chauvinism	• Study of statistics of birth, death and diseases	: Demography
• One who hates knowledge and learning	: Misologist		
• One who is neither intelligent nor dull	: Mediocre		
• One who is not the citizen of country	: Alien		
• One who is talkative	: Garrulous		



# EXERCISE

**DIRECTIONS (Qs.1-5) :** For the expression which has been underlined in each of the following sentences, choose the response (a), (b), (c) or (d) which most nearly expresses its meaning.

- Moralists are usually persons who abstain from alcoholic drinks.  
(a) teetotallers (b) ascetics  
(c) pedants (d) celibates
- The chairman is quick to find fault and is hard to please.  
(a) frivolous (b) facetious  
(c) fastidious (d) ferocious
- Scriptural injunctions should not be opposed or treated with contempt.  
(a) flouted (b) flounced  
(c) floundered (d) flaunted
- A fortress on a commanding height for defense of a city is called  
(a) citadel (b) metropolis  
(c) megapolis (d) headquarters
- Nostalgia is  
(a) anxiety about future  
(b) feeling of insecurity  
(c) longing for a period in the past  
(d) an allergy to certain foods

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 6-35):** Each sentence or phrase given below is followed by four words. Pick the word which is closest in meaning to the preceding phrase or sentence.

- A twisted thread spun out of long combed wool.  
(a) aria (b) calico  
(c) angora (d) worsted
- A long vehement speech of censure.  
(a) debacle (b) deception  
(c) rapidity (d) tirade
- To make new again.  
(a) profane (b) contend  
(c) renovate (d) dwindle
- An action planned is outwit an enemy.  
(a) stratagem (b) ingenuity  
(c) precipice (d) clue
- A person who knows many languages.  
(a) polemicist (b) dabbler  
(c) delinquent (d) polyglot
- A soft, gentle breeze.  
(a) zephyr (b) traunt  
(c) vapidty (d) deluge
- Old time, a time long past.  
(a) integer (b) yore  
(c) histrionics (d) venture
- Referring to that which is at a distance but within view.  
(a) sarcastic (b) yonder  
(c) brisk (d) adamant
- A small crease, furrow or folding on the outer surface.  
(a) domicile (b) incumbency  
(c) wrinkle (d) adultery
- A worthless and miserable person, who is full of vice.  
(a) broker (b) demagogue  
(c) wretch (d) skeptic
- Wide and complete view.  
(a) envoy (b) dainty  
(c) salvation (d) panorama
- Not allowing light to pass through  
(a) haze (b) gale  
(c) blank (d) opaque
- The ability to endure difficulties and to face opposition.  
(a) mettle (b) duress  
(c) amelioration (d) impulse
- To separate the chaff from the grain by wind.  
(a) winnow (b) amputate  
(c) castrate (d) reprieve
- A bold, clever and masculine woman.  
(a) matron (b) virtuoso  
(c) virago (d) ascetic
- A simpleton who unduly assumes an air of superior wisdom.  
(a) dipsomaniac (b) foe  
(c) alter-ego (d) wiseacre
- To strive for superiority  
(a) accomplish (b) endure  
(c) authenticate (d) vie
- Excessively and submissively fond of one's wife  
(a) uxorious (b) bellicose  
(c) regenerate (d) sardonic
- A girl who prefers boyish games and activities.  
(a) virago (b) bourgeois  
(c) tomboy (d) decoy
- Not genuine, sham  
(a) incompetent (b) spurious  
(c) persuasive (d) ordinary
- Wet, muddy and boggy ground in which one sinks.  
(a) circuit (b) curtsy  
(c) quagmire (d) demented
- Feelings and emotions that cannot be expressed or released.  
(a) ordeal (b) salvo  
(c) capacitate (d) pent-up
- A very frightening dream  
(a) damsel (b) nightmare  
(c) melancholy (d) glut
- A person guilty of flagrant disrespect towards natural beauties or objects of cultural values.  
(a) bard (b) knight  
(c) adonis (d) vandal
- To talk in a silly manner  
(a) twaddle (b) fumble  
(c) blubber (d) blunt



31. The frontline in army battle formation.  
 (a) headline (b) obstacle  
 (c) vanguard (d) gallery
32. A business magnate  
 (a) trade (b) vampire  
 (c) tycoon (d) imposter
33. A summary and general view on any subject  
 (a) chicanery (b) synopsis  
 (c) preface (d) oddity
34. False, malicious and defamatory spoken words.  
 (a) clemency (b) antagonist  
 (c) complanning (d) slander
35. Absurdly romantic, idealistic and impracticable.  
 (a) rustice (b) inane  
 (c) savage (d) quixotic

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 36-60) :** Select single word or phrase which means most nearly the same as the given idiomatic phrase.

36. An office with pay but little responsibility  
 (a) sinecure (b) presidency  
 (c) factotum (d) plutocracy
37. A group of small ships  
 (a) archipelago (b) fleet  
 (c) flotilla (d) tugs
38. A long boring speech  
 (a) horology (b) harangue  
 (c) valediction (d) filibuster
39. A commonplace and unoriginal statement  
 (a) witticism (b) preamble  
 (c) prevarication (d) platitude
40. Mutual loyalty among group members  
 (a) etiquette (b) homogeneity  
 (c) esprit de corps (d) rendezvous
41. A place where bees are kept  
 (a) aviary (b) artifice  
 (c) diadem (d) apiary
42. Something short-lived  
 (a) ephemeral (b) Epicurean  
 (c) interim (d) illusory
43. A very light and thin material  
 (a) gossamer (b) gazelle  
 (c) coterie (d) poultice
44. A person who believes he is always ill  
 (a) maverick (b) metaphysics  
 (c) neophyte (d) hypochondriac
45. One who assails traditional beliefs  
 (a) critic (b) atheist  
 (c) anthropologist (d) iconoclast
46. A person who chooses to live in a foreign country  
 (a) traveller (b) explorer  
 (c) immigrant (d) refugee
47. A happening that cannot be altered  
 (a) invincible (b) fate  
 (c) fait-accomplis (d) congruence
48. A person with good artistic taste  
 (a) gourmet (b) gourmand  
 (c) connoisseur (d) judge

49. Genocide based on race or religion  
 (a) apartheid (b) segregation  
 (c) animism (d) pogrom
50. Theft of someone else's writings  
 (a) facsimile (b) plagiarism  
 (c) forgery (d) parody
51. A gentle breeze  
 (a) south wind (b) squall  
 (c) draft (d) zephyr
52. Fire works display for amusement  
 (a) glitter (b) crackers  
 (c) pyrotechnics (d) sparklers
53. Interesting narrator of stories  
 (a) novelist (b) broadcaster  
 (c) raconteur (d) orator
54. Something which is fit for being eaten  
 (a) fodder (b) menu  
 (c) edible (d) gastronome
55. A person who assails cherished beliefs  
 (a) ruffian (b) iconoclast  
 (c) atheist (d) rebel
56. Secretly listening to others' conversation  
 (a) overhearing (b) pigeonholing  
 (c) eavesdropping (d) spying
57. One who habitually talks in sleep  
 (a) somnambulist (b) insomniac  
 (c) somniloquist (d) blabberer
58. One who hates the institution of marriage:  
 (a) misogynist (b) misanthrope  
 (c) philanthropy (d) misogynist
59. The state of being unmarried:  
 (a) alimony (b) bigamy  
 (c) matrimony (d) celibacy
60. A person who is competent to pass critical judgement upon anything  
 (a) Expert (b) Epicurean  
 (c) Connoisseur (d) Parricide

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 61-80) :** Each of the following questions has a phrase/clause in bold letters. From the given options, choose the word that is similar in meaning to the bold lettered phrase/clause.

61. The boy wailed and **hit hard repeatedly** at the door with his fists.  
 (a) suckled (b) battered  
 (c) expunged (d) affronted
62. The girl standing at the gate **gestured with her hand** to me to come in.  
 (a) violated (b) dictated  
 (c) beckoned (d) ostracized
63. The well of the house (Lok Sabha) witnessed **a scene of noisy confusion** as members trooped in.  
 (a) security (b) bedlam  
 (c) inertia (d) vogue
64. The child was **totally confused and was unable to think** in the melee that ensued.  
 (a) bemused (b) obedient  
 (c) retorted (d) thrifty



65. The cow went **out of control with anger** and ran after the dog.  
 (a) steady (b) berserk  
 (c) beaming (d) redolent
66. They **become pale with fear** at the sight of approaching figures.  
 (a) scrutinized (b) walloped  
 (c) blanched (d) sweated
67. His speech was full of **big words without any meaning**.  
 (a) narrative (b) decree  
 (c) fact (d) bombast
68. He committed an unforgivable and **open and shameless** act of rudeness.  
 (a) dominant (b) brazen  
 (c) swarthy (d) vicarious
69. The fine thing about a **noisy dispute** on cricket is that there is no bitterness in it.  
 (a) wrangle (b) swathe  
 (c) wobble (d) swing
70. Other men **flew silently and quickly** across our sky like a meteor, but he shone on like a sun in the heaven.  
 (a) flitted (b) existed  
 (c) blossomed (d) succumbed
71. They settled the dispute without **angry and bitter feelings**.  
 (a) probation (b) acrimony  
 (c) blasphemy (d) contiguity
72. He was frequently **given a mild but firm warning** by his mother for irresponsible behaviour.  
 (a) abated (b) admonished  
 (c) buckled down (d) evaluated
73. The cute little girl is treated with **excessive admiration** where ever she goes.  
 (a) critique (b) popularity  
 (c) apprehension (d) adulation
74. Relief materials and medical supplies are being delivered **under the aegis of UN**.  
 (a) assurance (b) guarantee  
 (c) patronage (d) asylum
75. He stood **filled with horror and shock** at the gruesome sight of accident.  
 (a) aghast (b) munificent  
 (c) contentious (d) susceptible
76. After **looking attentively at the scene** for a time in silence we turned to descend the hills.  
 (a) contemplating (b) involving  
 (c) transcending (d) emanating
77. There is **gloomy, angry and silent** resentment amongst the masses against their condition.  
 (a) detrimental (b) sullen  
 (c) innocuous (d) diligent
78. All the familiar landmarks were **blotted out**.  
 (a) sabotaged (b) tempered  
 (c) obliterated (d) hauled
79. Whenever I see one of them, I stand and **wish eagerly for it** for a long time.  
 (a) sibilate (b) grudge  
 (c) hobble (d) covet
80. With a chisel you can either **force open** the top of the box or you can widen the slit.  
 (a) prise (b) elevate  
 (c) slow (d) trample



# HINTS & SOLUTIONS

- |   |         |         |         |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) Teetotaller is a person who abstains totally from intoxicating drink. Ascetics mean a person who follows an ascetic life. Pedants mean a person who is excessively concerned with minor details and rules or with displaying academic learning. Celibates mean a person who abstains from marriage and sexual relations. | 6. (d)  | 7. (d)  | 8. (c)  | 9. (a)  | 10. (d) |
| 2. (c) The person who is hard to please is called fastidious. Frivolous means silly. Factitious means kidding. Ferocious means savagely fierce, cruel, or violent.  | 11. (a) | 12. (b) | 13. (b) | 14. (c) | 15. (c) |
| 3. (a) Flouts mean openly disregard. Flounce means intermittently move. Flounder means struggle mentally. Flaunt means to show off.   | 16. (d) | 17. (d) | 18. (a) | 19. (a) | 20. (c) |
| 4. (a) Citadel means a fortress, typically one on high ground above a city. Metropolis means the capital or chief city of a country or region. Megapolis means a very large city. Headquarters mean the premises occupied by a military commander and the commander's staff.  | 21. (d) | 22. (d) | 23. (a) | 24. (c) | 25. (b) |
| 5. (c) Nostalgia means a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past.   | 26. (c) | 27. (d) | 28. (b) | 29. (d) | 30. (a) |
|   | 31. (c) | 32. (c) | 33. (b) | 34. (d) | 35. (d) |
|   | 36. (a) | 37. (c) | 38. (b) | 39. (d) | 40. (c) |
|   | 41. (d) | 42. (a) | 43. (a) | 44. (d) | 45. (d) |
|   | 46. (c) | 47. (c) | 48. (c) | 49. (d) | 50. (b) |
|   | 51. (d) | 52. (c) | 53. (c) | 54. (c) | 55. (a) |
|   | 56. (c) | 57. (c) | 58. (d) | 59. (d) | 60. (c) |
|   | 61. (b) | 62. (c) | 63. (b) | 64. (a) | 65. (b) |
|   | 66. (c) | 67. (d) | 68. (b) | 69. (a) | 70. (a) |
|   | 71. (b) | 72. (b) | 73. (d) | 74. (c) | 75. (a) |
|   | 76. (a) | 77. (b) | 78. (c) | 79. (d) | 80. (a) |