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TABLEAU

vivid description, striking incident or scene

- ☑ **Syn.** pageant, scene
- ✗ The tourists admired the famous painter's lifelike tableau of the Last Supper.

TABLOID N.

a type of popular newspaper with small pages, many pictures and short simple reports usually of the sensational kind

- ☑ **Syn.** lurid, scandalous, shocking
- * **Ant.** admirable, estimable, excellent
- ✗ Information on the personal life of a film star is just the sort of story the tabloids love.

TABOO N.

restriction, ban, prohibition, bar; the avoidance, among a particular group of people, of particular actions or words for religious or social reasons

- ☑ **Syn.** forbidden, banned, outlawed
- * **Ant.** acceptable, suitable, satisfactory
- ✗ Death is a taboo subject for many.

TACIT

silently understood or implied

- ☑ **Syn.** implicit, understood
- * **Ant.** explicit, stated
- ✗ Everyone in the room knew that a tacit agreement had been reached about the course of action.

TACITURN Adj.

uncommunicative, reserved, silent, reticent; saying little (esp. habitually)

- ☑ **Syn.** silent, cold, quiet, distance
- * **Ant.** talkative, communicative, chatty
- ✗ Taciturn candidates will not be able to perform well in stage shows.

TACTILE Adj.

sensitive to touch, corporeal, related to touch

- ☑ **Syn.** physical, concrete, perceptible
- * **Ant.** intangible, vague, subtle
- ✗ The right hemisphere of the brain specialises in the perception of complex patterns, both visual and tactile.

TAINTED Adj. TAINT V.

contaminated, corrupt

- ☑ **Syn.** ruined, stained, polluted
- * **Ant.** clean, untainted, wholesome
- ✗ His reputation was permanently tainted by the financial scandal.

TALISMAN N.

an object supposed to bring good luck

- ☑ **Syn.** charm, amulet, fetish
- ✗ She has worn the ring as a talisman ever since she survived the plane crash.

TANG

sharp flavour or odour

- ☑ **Syn.** taste, savour
- ✗ After being smoked with herring, the bacon had a distinctly fishy tang.

TANGENTIAL

irrelevant, inessential

- ☑ **Syn.** secondary, unimportant
- * **Ant.** primary, important
- ✗ Your argument is interesting, but it's tangential to the matter at hand, so I suggest we get back to the point.

TANGIBLE

that can be sensed, perceptible, measurable

- ☑ **Syn.** palpable, tactile
- * **Ant.** theoretical, abstract
- ✗ The storming of the castle didn't bring the soldiers tangible rewards, but it brought them great honour.

TANGY Adj.

with a sharp taste and smell

- ☑ **Syn.** tasty, spicy, sharp, strong
- * **Ant.** bland, insipid, weak, mild
- ✗ Everyone loves the tangy pickles grandma prepares.

TANTALISE V.

entice, titillate, attract, arouse; to excite or attract (someone) by an offer or a suggestion of something which is, in fact, unlikely to happen

- ☑ **Syn.** tease, entice, excite, tempt
- ✗ Tantalised by the prospect of two weeks in the Bahamas, she bought ten lottery tickets.

TANTAMOUNT Adj.

identical, same, equal, synonymous; being almost the same or having the same effect as (usually something bad)

- ☑ **Syn.** equal, the same as, identical
- * **Ant.** different, dissimilar, unlike
- ✗ The bank wouldn't lend any more money, which was tantamount to making the business close down.

TANTRUM N.

attack of uncontrollable bad temper, a sudden period of uncontrolled childish anger

- ☑ **Syn.** outburst, fit, paroxysm
- * **Ant.** out of shape, unfit, in poor shape
- ✗ The director and the producer of Hindi films usually have to bear with the tantrums of their stars.

TARDY Adj.

late, sluggish, delayed, slow or late in happening or arriving

☑ **Syn.** slow, behind

★ **Ant.** punctual, prompt, timely

☞ The star made a fashionable tardy entry.

TARNISH V.

disgrace, damage, obscure, discolour; to make or (esp. of metal) become less bright or a different colour

☑ **Syn.** dull, stain, smear, dirty

★ **Ant.** clean, dirt-free, sanitary

☞ The media has the evil power to tarnish the image even of a celebrity with impeccable character and record.

TARNISHED

corroded, discoloured

☑ **Syn.** discredited, disgraced

★ **Ant.** bright, polished

☞ The antique silver plate was so tarnished that Anna had to polish it for hours before she could use it.

TARRY V.

delay; dawdle

☑ **Syn.** linger, loiter, procrastinate

☞ The teacher asked the students not to tarry in the corridors and to go to the library instead.

TAUT Adj.

tense, hard, secure, firm, tight or completely stretched

☑ **Syn.** tight, rigid, firm, rigid

★ **Ant.** slack, loose, limp, baggy, floppy

☞ He kept his eyes on the road ahead, his face taut with concentration.

TAUTOLOGY N.

unnecessary use of synonyms in a single phrase

☞ "Nothing was covered up and no information was concealed," said the minister, producing his second tautology of the interview.

TAWDRY Adj.

blatant, brazen, gaudy, tasteless; looking bright and attractive but in fact cheap and of low quality

☑ **Syn.** ostentatious, showy

★ **Ant.** tasteful, refined, elegant

☞ The clothes that had looked so beautiful on stage looked tawdry, hanging in the dressing room.

TAXONOMY

science of classification

☞ Certain new species do not seem to fit into the systems of classification used in traditional taxonomy.

TECHNOCRAT

strong believer in technology, technical expert

☞ The technocrat could barely hide his contempt as the CEO struggled to open a file on his computer.

TEETOTALLER N.

person who never drinks alcohol

☞ The tribe of teetotalers is shrinking.

TEMERITY N.

audacity, insolence, effrontery,chutzpah; a willingness to do or say something that shocks, angers or upsets other people

☑ **Syn.** nerve, gall, cheek

★ **Ant.** silence, discretion, shyness

☞ He had the temerity to tell me that smoking was bad for me when I knew he was a smoker himself.

TEMPERANCE

restraint, self-control, moderation

☑ **Syn.** abstention, sobriety

★ **Ant.** crapulence, bibulousness

☞ The strict, religious community frowned on newcomers who did not behave with temperance.

TEMPEST N. **TEMPESTUOUS** Adj.

storm; violently stormy, impassioned

☑ **Syn.** storm, gale, snowstorm

☞ The ship was blown 200 miles off-course by the tempest.

☞ She had a tempestuous nature and got into a lot of arguments.

Mini Revision Test

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

1. surreptitious
2. sycophant
3. synthesis
4. tacit
5. taciturn

- a. naturally untalkative
- b. flatterer
- c. combining of parts
- d. sneaky
- e. implied

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

TEMPORAL Adj.

not lasting forever, limited by time, secular, relating to practical matters or material things

- ☑ **Syn.** chronological, of time, activist
- ✗ Everything in the life of a person and in the world is temporal.

TEMPORISE V.

avoid committing oneself, gain time; to delay making a decision or stating your opinion in order to obtain an advantage

- ✗ The government temporised for months, waiting for the economy to pick up before calling an election.

TENABLE

defensible, reasonable

- ☑ **Syn.** justifiable, sustainable
- * **Ant.** untenable, indefensible
- ✗ This politically convenient view is no longer tenable.

TENACIOUS Adj. **TENACITY** N.

resolute, dedicated, stubborn, holding tightly onto something or keeping an opinion in a determined way; firmness, persistence, adhesiveness

- ☑ **Syn.** stubborn, resolute, firm
- * **Ant.** irresolute, unsure, cowardly
- ✗ The conservation group was tenacious in its opposition to the new airport.

TENDENTIOUS Adj.

having an aim, biased, designed to further a cause; (of speech or writing) expressing or supporting a particular opinion which many other people disagree with

- ✗ He claims that the article gives a distorted and highly tendentious view of the political situation in the country.

TENET N.

doctrine; dogma

Syn. principle, belief, percept, view

- ✗ The conservative Left does not believe in the tenets of liberalisation.

TENSILE

capable of withstanding physical stress

- ✗ Architects use tensile materials to construct buildings in earthquake-prone areas.

TENUOUS Adj.

thin, rare, slim, weak, easily damaged or proved false

- ☑ **Syn.** weak, shaky, feeble, vague
- * **Ant.** strong, sturdy, tough
- ✗ We were only able to make a tenuous connection between the two robberies.

TEPID

lukewarm, showing little enthusiasm

- ☑ **Syn.** warmish, apathetic
- * **Ant.** hot, cold, passionate
- ✗ Roxanne refused to take a bath in the tepid water, fearing that she would catch a cold.

TERSE Adj.

laconic, concise, crisp; using few words, sometimes in a way that seems rude or unfriendly

- ☑ **Syn.** short, brief, curt
- * **Ant.** rambling, wordy, confused
- ✗ In a terse statement yesterday, the company announced that it was closing three of its factories.

TESTAMENT

statement of belief, will

- ☑ **Syn.** evidence, proof
- ✗ Guy's children couldn't believe that he had left everything to his chihuahua in his last will and testament.

TESTY Adj.

irritable; short-tempered

- ☑ **Syn.** grumpy, peevish, crabby
- * **Ant.** cheerful, good-humoured
- Her chronic illness has turned her into a testy and snappy person.

TÊTE-À-TÊTE N.

private talks between two people

- ☑ **Syn.** conversation, talk, dialogue
- ✗ He is believed to have had a tête-à-tête with the PM before the cabinet reshuffle.

TETHER

to bind, tie

- ☑ **Syn.** tie up, hitch
- * **Ant.** unleash, release
- ✗ The cheetah chewed through its tether and ran away.

THEISM N.

belief that God exists; the belief that there is only one God, who is completely separate from His creations, rather than being a part of them

- ✗ Theism is a tremendous bonding force for universal brotherhood.

THEOCRACY N.

government of a community by religious leaders

- ✗ Theocracy is feasible in the country where there is a single religion and that is the state religion.

THERAPEUTIC

medicinal

- ☑ **Syn.** remedial, curing
- * **Ant.** harmful, detrimental
- ✗ Tarun found the hot springs to be very therapeutic for his aches and pains, so he bathed in them often.

THESIS

theory or hypothesis; dissertation; long, written composition

- ☑ **Syn.** proposal, contention
- ✗ Henry worked for six years on his Ph.D. thesis.

THESPIAN Adj. , N.

pertaining to drama, connected with acting and the theatre

- ☑ **Syn.** theatrical, staged
- ⌘ The biography covers a thespian career which spanned four decades.

THRALL N.

slave, bondage

- ☑ **Syn.** power, yoke, enslavement
- * **Ant.** freedom, manumit
- ⌘ The impossible terms set by the moneylenders held the poor illiterate farmers in thrall for generations.

THRASH V.

to batter, assail, attack; to hit hard or make a series of violent and uncontrolled movements

- ☑ **Syn.** beat, whip, lash, batter
- ⌘ Police thrashed the outlaw but failed to extract a confession.

THRIFTY Adj.

careful about money, economical

- ☑ **Syn.** frugal, careful, prudent
- * **Ant.** spendthrift, wastrel, squanderer
- ⌘ Fortunately he was thrifty and managed to save even out of his meagre salary.

THROES N.

great suffering; in the process of doing something which is difficult, unpleasant or painful

- ⌘ My brother is in the throes of a mid-life crisis which makes him rather difficult to live with.

THRONG N.

great crowd of people

- ☑ **Syn.** multitude, mass, crowd, horde
- * **Ant.** few, little, not many
- ⌘ Throngs of people were milling about the airport waiting for delayed flights.

THROTTLE V.

to strangle by squeezing the neck; a valve which allows more or less fuel to go into an engine and thus changes the power of the engine

- ☑ **Syn.** strangle, choke, stifle
- ⌘ The operator opened the throttle a little and the machine ran faster.

THWART V.

prevent, deter, foil, hinder; to stop (something) from happening or (someone) from doing something

- ☑ **Syn.** spoil, prevent, foil, ruin
- * **Ant.** encourage, cheer, hearten
- ⌘ She is constantly trying to thwart my efforts to make new friends.

TIFF N.

small argument, quarrel

- ☑ **Syn.** row, spat
- * **Ant.** agreement, accord, union
- ⌘ We had a slight tiff over whose turn it was to clean the floor.

TIMOROUS Adj.

demonstrating fear, lacking confidence, easily frightened

- ☑ **Syn.** nervous, fearful, timid
- * **Ant.** brave, daring, fearless
- ⌘ His timorous demeanour exposed his weakness.

TINGE

shade, colour

- ☑ **Syn.** dye, stain
- ⌘ Photographs develop a yellowish tinge as they age.

TIRADE N.

extended scolding, denunciation, a long angry speech expressing strong disapproval

- ☑ **Syn.** outburst, rant, lecture
- * **Ant.** praise, extol, honour, admire
- ⌘ Concluding his furious tirade, the opposition spokesperson demanded the minister's resignation.

TITAN

person of colossal stature or achievement

- ⌘ Despite his odd personal habits, it can't be denied that Mr Shah was a titan of the nation's industry.

TITANIC Adj.

gigantic

- ☑ **Syn.** colossal, immense, huge, giant
- * **Ant.** unimportant, irrelevant
- ⌘ The titanic project required a unique entrepreneurship.

TITILLATE V.

to excite, stimulate, electrify, arouse; to excite intentionally but only a little, usually with sexual images or descriptions

- ⌘ These days many advertisements are designed to titillate.

TITULAR Adj.

having the title of an office without the obligations, having the title of a position but not the responsibilities, duties or power; in name only

- ☑ **Syn.** supposed, ostensible, so-called
- * **Ant.** actual, real, definite
- ⌘ Even though he was only the titular head of the company, he enjoyed all amenities and perquisites.

TOADY N.

servile flatterer, yes man; a person who praises and is artificially pleasant to people in authority, usually in order to get some advantage from them

- ☑ **Syn.** flatterer, creep, crawler
- ⌘ Bosses like the toadies and not the individual worker or independent adviser.

TOLERANCE

capacity to respect different values, to endure or resist something

- ☑ **Syn.** sufferance, liberality
- ★ **Ant.** unbearable, intolerance
- 🗒 Dictators are characterised by their lack of tolerance for any opposition.

TONAL

relating to pitch or sound

- 🗒 Although it has interesting lyrics, the song's tonal deficiencies make it unpleasant to the ear.

TOPOGRAPHY

art of making maps or charts

- ☑ **Syn.** contour, shape
- 🗒 A master in the art of topography, Leavenworth was hired to create maps of the coast of South America.

TORMENT V.

to make someone suffer, great mental suffering and unhappiness or great physical pain

- ☑ **Syn.** anguish, suffering, agony, pain
- ★ **Ant.** pleasure, joy, bliss, satisfaction
- 🗒 The prisoners underwent great torment under their captors.

TORPOR N. TORPID Adj.

lethargy, sluggishness, dormancy

- ☑ **Syn.** inactivity, inertia
- 🗒 Our people are so lethargic that nothing can arouse them from their torpor.
- 🗒 Torpid workers can hardly contribute to TQM.

TORRID Adj.

passionate, burning, hot, fiery

- ☑ **Syn.** hot, boiling, burning
- ★ **Ant.** cool, chill, cold
- 🗒 In the torrid heat of May, no one was keen to walk far or indulge in strenuous exercise.

TORTUOUS Adj.

full of twists and turns, not direct or simple

- ☑ **Syn.** winding, twisted, twisting
- ★ **Ant.** straight, directly
- 🗒 The route through the back streets is a little tortuous, but it helps you avoid the worst of the traffic.

TOTALITARIANISM N.

single party government system

- ☑ **Syn.** despotism, tyranny, absolutism
- ★ **Ant.** democracy, democratic system
- 🗒 China follows totalitarianism.

TOTTERING

walk unsteadily, barely standing

- ☑ **Syn.** stagger, stumble
- ★ **Ant.** stable, steady
- 🗒 The tottering old man still managed to make his way to the corner shop every day to buy his favourite candy bar.

TOUCHSTONE N.

stones used to test the fineness of gold alloys; criterion, an established standard or principle by which something is judged

- ☑ **Syn.** criterion, acid test, hallmark
- ★ **Ant.** unusual, odd, curious
- 🗒 In business, having a large share of the market is often assumed to be the touchstone for success.

TOUT V.

publicise, praise excessively; to advertise or make known or praise (something or someone) repeatedly, esp. as a way of encouraging their sale, popularity or development

- ☑ **Syn.** advertise, hype, plug
- ★ **Ant.** understate, minimise, belittle
- 🗒 The local car manufacturer has produced a series of television advertisements touting the safety features of their cars.

TOXIN

poison

- ☑ **Syn.** harmful, dangerous
- ★ **Ant.** fruitful, salutary
- 🗒 It's essential to keep all toxins away from children, as they might eat them accidentally.

TRACTABLE Adj.

amenable, obedient, submissive; easily dealt with, controlled or persuaded

- ☑ **Syn.** good, obedient, dutiful
- ★ **Ant.** disobedient, defiant, naughty
- 🗒 He's quite a docile, tractable child.

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| 1. surreptitious | a. naturally untalkative |
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| 3. synthesis | c. combining of parts |
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| 5. taciturn | e. implied |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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TRADUCE V.

expose to slander, to criticise (someone or something) very negatively

- ☑ **Syn.** defame, malign, calumniate
- ★ **Ant.** praise, applaud, cheer
- ☒ She tried to traduce his simplicity by calling him a simpleton.

TRANQUILITY N.

calmness, peace

- ☑ **Syn.** calm, quiet, stillness
- ★ **Ant.** uproar, din, racket,
- ☒ I love the tranquillity of the countryside.

TRANSCENDENT Adj. , TRANSCEND V.

which rises above the level of ordinary reasoning; exceed, surpass

- ☑ **Syn.** supernatural, mystical, divine
- ★ **Ant.** mundane, average, mediocre
- ☒ Transcendental meditation has its own merits.

TRANSGRESS V. TRANSGRESSION N.

to go against a rule, trespass; to break (a law or moral rule)

- ☑ **Syn.** sin, lapse, do wrong
- ★ **Ant.** behave, act, perform
- ☒ Those are the rules and anyone who transgresses will be severely punished.

TRANSIENT Adj. TRANSITORY Adj.

something temporary, lasting for only a short time, temporary

- ☑ **Syn.** brief, temporary, passing
- ★ **Ant.** permanent, lasting, stable
- ☒ It is an organisation set up to provide money and help for transients.

TRANSLUCENT

partially transparent

- ☑ **Syn.** diaphanous, glassy
- ★ **Ant.** opaque
- ☒ The man was visible through the translucent shower curtain.

TRANSMUTE

to change in appearance or shape

- ☑ **Syn.** alter, adapt
- ★ **Ant.** fixed, irreversible
- ☒ In stages, the caterpillar transmuted into a beautiful butterfly.

TRANSPIRE V.

be revealed, happen; (of a fact which was secret or not known) to become known

- ☑ **Syn.** leak, come out
- ☒ No one is willing to predict what may transpire at the peace conference.

TRAPPINGS N.

outward decorations, ornaments, all the things that are part of or are typical of a particular job, situation or event

- ☑ **Syn.** accessories, frills
- ☒ He enjoyed the trappings of power, such as a chauffeur-driven car and bodyguards.

TRAUMATIC Adj.

pertaining to an injury caused by violence, severe emotional shock; pain caused by an extremely upsetting experience

- ☑ **Syn.** shocking, disturbing, upsetting
- ★ **Ant.** reassuring, supportive, cheering
- ☒ A traumatic experience in childhood stays a long way through one's life.

TRAVAIL N.

painful labour

- ☒ There is always a limit to enduring travail and humiliation.

TRAVESTY N.

comical parody, treatment aimed at making something appear ridiculous; something which fails to represent the values and qualities that it is intended to represent, in a way that is shocking or offensive

- ☑ **Syn.** charade, parody, farce
- ☒ The activist described the court ruling as a travesty of justice.

TREMULOUS Adj.

shaking, quivering

- ☑ **Syn.** unsteady, shaky
- ★ **Ant.** steady, firm, solid
- ☒ The old man's voice was tremulous but his resolve was unwavering.

TRENCHANT Adj.

sharp, biting remark; (esp. of criticism, remarks, etc.) severe and expressed with force

- ☑ **Syn.** pointed, caustic
- ★ **Ant.** benevolent
- ☒ His most trenchant criticism is reserved for the party leader, in his opinion, "the most incompetent and ineffectual the party has known."

TREPIDATION N.

affliction, fear or anxiety about what is going to happen

- ☑ **Syn.** fear, anxiety, concern
- ★ **Ant.** equanimity, calmness, poise
- ☒ There's always a certain amount of trepidation when you're starting a new job.

TRIBULATIONS N.

distress, suffering

- ☑ **Syn.** evils, harms, problems
- ☒ He is now at peace, those days of trials and tribulations are just a bad memory.

TRIFLING

of slight worth, trivial, insignificant

- ☑ **Syn.** unimportant, insignificant
- ★ **Ant.** serious, considerable
- ☒ That little glitch in the computer program is a trifling error; normally it works really well.

TRITE Adj.

very ordinary, commonplace, unexciting; expressed too frequently to be interesting or seem sincere

☑ **Syn.** stale, tired, corny

★ **Ant.** original, novel, new

✗ I find the words of love and peace in his lyrics too trite to be taken seriously.

TRUCULENT Adj. , **TRUCULENCE** N.

aggressive and discourteous, bad-tempered and tending to argue a lot

☑ **Syn.** hostile, defiant, fractious

★ **Ant.** friendly, gracious, open

✗ He was in a very truculent mood throughout the meeting.

TRUNCATE

to cut off, shorten by cutting

☑ **Syn.** cut short, trim

★ **Ant.** lengthen, extend

✗ The mayor truncated his standard lengthy speech when he realised that the audience was in a hurry to go home.

TRYING – difficult to deal with

☑ **Syn.** taxing, demanding

★ **Ant.** easy, painless

✗ Miraculously, she managed to finish the project under the most trying of circumstances.

TRYST N., V.

meeting

☑ **Syn.** assignation, meeting

✗ This place is a regular dating joint and witnesses many a trysts.

TUMID Adj.

swollen, pompous, bombastic

☑ **Syn.** distended, engorged, bloated

★ **Ant.** shrunken, simple, modest

✗ Her tumid belly was a proof of her oncoming motherhood.

TUMULT N.

commotion, riot, noise, a loud noise, esp. that produced by an excited crowd or a state of confusion, change or uncertainty

☑ **Syn.** uproar, clamor, din

★ **Ant.** peace, calm, quiet

✗ You couldn't hear her speak over the tumult from the screaming fans.

TURBID Adj.

muddy, thick, disordered; (of a liquid) not transparent because of suspended matter

☑ **Syn.** dirty

★ **Ant.** clear, obvious, lucid

✗ The once-clear waters of the lake have become turbid with microscopic algae.

TURBULENCE N.

state of violent agitation, a state of confusion and lack of order or strong uneven movements within air or water

☑ **Syn.** commotion, disorder

★ **Ant.** calm, still, cool

✗ Due to the presence of terrorists and subversive elements, there is always turbulence in Kashmir and Assam.

TURGID Adj.

swollen, bloated, inflated, pompous; bombastic (of speech, writing, style etc.)

☑ **Syn.** pompous, dull, hard going

★ **Ant.** airy, fresh, light, open

✗ Her prose is too turgid for the common reader.

TURPITUDE N.

depravity, baseness, vileness

✗ The turpitude of child-molesters is sickening and deserves severe punishment.

TUTELAGE N. **TUTELARY** Adj.

guardianship, training, help; advice or teaching about how to do something

☑ **Syn.** auspices, guidance, support

✗ She is learning classical music under the tutelage of Pandit Jasraj.

TYCOON N.

a business magnate, baron, big shot, capitalist, a person who has succeeded in business or industry and has become very wealthy and powerful

☑ **Syn.** magnate, mogul, industrialist

✗ This year has seen the rise of many business tycoons in diverse sectors.

TYRANNY N.

oppression; government by a ruler or small group of people who have unlimited power and use it unfairly and cruelly

☑ **Syn.** oppression, cruelty, autocracy

★ **Ant.** liberty, freedom, autonomy

✗ Even in this age, there are tyrannies in many countries.

TYRO N.

a beginner, a novice

☑ **Syn.** novice, learner, trainee

★ **Ant.** expert, old hand

✗ A tyro cannot command the price of a master.