

## VOCABULARY FOR READING COMPREHENSION

Not appreciating the subtle differences between words like - sarcastic and sardonic, ironical, cynical,... (the list goes on), many threaten your chances of a high score in R.C. (especially in inferential and true tone passages).

The beauty of English gets more enhanced if understood in the right perspective. On the other hand, one word misunderstood many stand you in for a comical interpretation of a serious passage. The 'Vocabulary for R.C. 'section becomes a unique section, as it tries to encompass a kaleidoscope of tones, moods, opinions, characteristics, analogies which have statistically found a higher representation in the R.C. passages of management entrance exams

**Anarchist**: A person who does not believe in any kind of system, law and

order, governance and goes an extra mile to prove his view on

political disorder.

**Agnostic** : A person who is unsure of the existence of God. Unlike atheists

he is a little flexible with respect to his belief about God, but

still unsure.

**Atheism/atheist**: A belief in the non-existence of God.

**Authoritarian**: A person following complete obedience to authority. Hitler is a

good example of the kind.

**Example:** The authoritarian regime of Taliban finally met

its nemesis.

**Analytical**: Characterized by logical and reasonable basis. Analytically

sound managers - need of the hour.

**Critic** : A person who shows faults in something and usually expresses

a base/low opinion.

**Example:** Saurav Ganguly's critics have suddenly found a

new voice, after his litany of failures with shortpitch ball. A person who judges the quality of something especially works of art, literature,

music. etc.

**Example:** He is a music critic, i.e. he judges

**Callous**: Having or showing no sympathy for other people's feelings or

suffering.

**Example:** A callous disregard for the feeling of others.

**Bacchanalian**: Orgy; referred to a festival which was celebrated with dancing,

song and revelry.

**Blasphemy**: The act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of

reverence towards God.

**Example:** Blasphemy and independent thinking are very

often confused.

**Empiricism**: The practice of relying on observation and experiment

especially in the natural sciences.

A theory that all knowledge originates in experience.

**Example:** An empirical analysis of the situation yields

different results.

**Critical**: It means indicating faults in someone.

(for somebody/something)

The jehadis were quite critical of Pakistan supporting US

against Afghanistan.

**Critique** : Critical analysis

**Example:** Presented in this column is a critique of the

govt's economic policies.

**Cynic** : A person who believe that people do not do things for good,

sincere or noble reasons, but only for their own advantage:

concerned only with one's own interests.

**Example:** Stop giving these cynical smiles.

**Example:** Women in Afghanistan had over a period time

started viewing the cynical Taliban regime with

much apprehension.

**Example:** His adventurism was very close to being termed

as a cynical disregard for the safety of others.

**Contemplative**: Pondering over or considering thoughtfully.

**Example:** Contemplate changing careers.

**Commendation**: Praise or approval.

**Castigating**: To chastise, punish or to criticize severely.

**Example:** Hansie Cronje's castigation by the sports media.

**Disparagement**: The art or process of speaking in a belittling way; decrying, or

reducing someone in rank or esteem.

**Example:** Disparaging someone's character or achievements.

**Disinterested (noun):** Freedom from bias or self-interest, impartiality

**Example:** A disinterested act of kindness. Different from

uninterested being without an interest.

**Disillusion (ed)** : To destroy the but mistaken beliefs or ideals.

**Example:** Disillusioned voters want an alternative to the

two parties.

**Disingenuous**: Not straightforward; crafty.

**Exploratory** : To investigate systematically; to examine.

**Example:** Explore every suggestion given.

**Ecclesiastical**: Of or relating to a church, as an organized institution.

**Example:** The period witnessed strong anti-ecclesiastical

view from the masses.

**Eclectic** : Selecting what appears to be the best form diverse sources

systems, or styles. An eclectic approach.

**Example:** Different from the non-holistic: emphasizing the

importance or the whole and the

interdependence of its parts.

**Frivolous** : Something which demands lesser important or someone who is

lacking in seriousness.

**Example:** The Zimbabweans are not frivolous when it

comes to playing them in their own soil.

**Indignation**: Anger aroused by something unjust, unworthy, or mean.

**Example:** Kapil Dev's indignation is just.

**Inquisitive** : Someone who has the propensity to ask questions.

**Example:** My first class in the college saw many inquisitive

students trying to unnerve me.

**Ironic** : Something which happens in the opposite way to what

expected and often causes amusement because of this.

**Example:** It is ironic that he died of AIDS, though he was

the one who discovered the first AIDS vaccine.

**Myth** : It is something untrue.

**Mystify**: To puzzle someone/something.

**Morose** : Unhappy and bad tempered; but not saying

much. **Example:** Morose mannerisms.

**Moron** : A very stupid person.

**Misnomer** : A wrong use of a name, word or description.

**Example:** To call CAT exam, a catwalk would be a misnomer.

**Mystic** : Something/someone which has a hidden meaning or spiritual

power and arouses feeling of deep respect; and wonder.

**Example:** Mystical writings.

**Mysticism**: To believe that knowledge of God and a real truth may

be reached by directing one's mind through spiritual insight.