

“P”

PACHYDERM N.

an animal with a thick skin, such as an elephant, a rhinoceros or hippopotamus, also an insensitive person

- ✎ Call a politician a pachyderm and he will probably take it as a compliment.

PAEAN N.

song of praise or joy

- ☑ **Syn.** exaltation, panegyric, alleluia
- ✎ I wonder if singing paeans to our freedom fighters once or twice a year is sufficient to instil patriotism in our children.

PACIFIST

one opposed to war

- ☑ **Syn.** peace-lover, appeaser
- * **Ant.** warmonger, belligerent
- ✎ For one who claimed to be a pacifist, Dinesh was surprisingly fond of weapons of war.

PALATABLE Adj. Palate N.

tasteful, nice to eat, appetising, delectable, agreeing with your taste buds or your mind, pleasing

- ☑ **Syn.** edible, pleasant, tasty
- * **Ant.** bland, tasteless, dull
- ✎ The meal was barely palatable – in fact, I thought it was disgusting.

PALATIAL

like a palace, magnificent

- ☑ **Syn.** luxurious, opulent
- * **Ant.** modest, humble
- ✎ After living in a one-room flat for five years, Amrita thought the modest one-bedroom house looked downright palatial.

PALEONTOLOGY N. PALEONTOLOGIST N.

the study of fossils

- ✎ Paleontology has revealed a lot about the evolution of life on planet Earth.

PALETTE N.

a thin board used by artists to mix colours

- ✎ She mixes her colours on the canvas rather than on the palette.

PALINDROME N.

a word or phrase which is spelt the same backwards and forwards

- ✎ The word Malayalam is a palindrome.
- ✎ You can cage a swallow, can't you but you can't swallow a cage, can you? (*Try reading the sentence backwards, last word first.*)

PALLIATE V. PALLIATION N.

ease pain, make less severe or offensive

- ✎ We should palliate the suffering of the poor affected by the landslide.

PALLID Adj.

weak, pale, without colour

- ☑ **Syn.** pale, white, ashen
- * **Ant.** colorful, pink, rosy
- ✎ A pallid complexion could be the symptom of a disease.

PALPABLE Adj., PALPITATION N.

tangible, obvious, detectable, noticeable

- ☑ **Syn.** blatant, flagrant, overt
- * **Ant.** covert, hidden
- ✎ The sense of excitement among the crowd was palpable.

PALTRY Adj.

insignificant; petty

- ☑ **Syn.** worthless, measly, trivial
- * **Ant.** substantial, large, considerable
- ✎ The company offered Jeremy a paltry sum which he refused.

PAN V.

criticise harshly

- ☑ **Syn.** censure, attack, lambaste, condemn
- * **Ant.** praise, commend, applaud
- ✎ Salman Rushdie's latest book has been panned by critics.

PANACEA N.

the ultimate cure for everything, remedy, cure

- ☑ **Syn.** cure-all, solution, answer
- ✎ Education is a panacea for India's problems.

PANACHE N.

flair, flamboyance, behaviour, speech, dash or verve

- ☑ **Syn.** flamboyance, flair, style
- * **Ant.** clumsiness, awkwardness
- ✎ The solo passages were played with great panache.

PANDEMIC Adj.

widespread, prevalent over a whole country or the world.

- ☑ **Syn.** pervasive, rife, rampant
- * **Ant.** Sporadic, intermittent, scarce
- ✎ The WHO fears that the AIDS epidemic would soon reach pandemic proportions.

PANDEMONIUM N.

a great uproar and confusion, chaos, indiscipline

- ☑ **Syn.** chaos, mayhem, bedlam, racket
- * **Ant.** peace, calm, order
- ✎ Pandemonium broke out in the burning pandal.

PANDER V.

cater to the low desires of others

- ☒ Hollywood film producers pander to the masses through violence and sex.
- ☒ Political leaders almost inevitably pander to big business.

PANEGYRIC N.

a speech in great praise of someone

- ☑ **Syn.** eulogy, encomium, accolade
- ☒ She delivered a panegyric on the President-elect.

PANORAMA N. PANORAMIC Adj.

complete view or picture of a subject; denoting an unobstructed and a comprehensive view

- ☑ **Syn.** view, scene, vista, landscape
- ☒ This book promises to be a panorama of Indian culture.

PANTOMIME N.

acting or making gestures without speech

- ☒ She did a pantomime of opening a lock and finally I understood that she wanted her room key.

PARADIGM (PARADYME) N. PARADIGMATIC Adj.

model, pattern, an extremely fine model or example of a type, archetype

- ☑ **Syn.** example, model, pattern
- ☒ Tatas, Birlas and Ambanis are the paradigms of great success in business.

PARADOX N.

a thing which seems to contradict itself but may actually be true, a statement that appears to contradict itself but may be true

- ☑ **Syn.** enigma, incongruity, mystery
- ☒ Paradoxically, Ravi ate so much but never put on weight while Ajay bloated on a starvation diet.

PARAGON N.

a perfect model of virtue, excellence etc., treasure, gem, the ideal

- ☑ **Syn.** model, ideal, epitome
- ☒ After hearing repeatedly that our cousin Amy was a paragon of virtue, we lost all interest in meeting her.

PARAMOUNT Adj.

supreme, extreme, above all

- ☑ **Syn.** dominate, chief, principal
- ★ **Ant.** marginal, peripheral, minimal
- ☒ Character and ethics are paramount in whatever you do.

PARAMOUR N.

a term used for an unlawful lover

- ☒ The paramour was thrashed by the husband.

PARANOIA N.

type of a psychological disease where a person feels that everyone is against him

- ☑ **Syn.** fear, suspicion, obsession
- ☒ In his last days, Hitler suffered from paranoia.

PARAPHERNALIA N.

equipment; odds and ends

- ☑ **Syn.** apparatus, kits, implements
- ☒ Her purse contained combs, gloss and other personal paraphernalia.

PARAPHRASE

to reword, usually in simpler terms

- ☑ **Syn.** rephrase, restate
- ☒ In paraphrasing the poet, she lost the eloquence of his style and the punch of his message.

Literature

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

APOCRYPHAL	:	of unknown authorship or doubtful integrity
BALLAD	:	a narrative poem meant for recitation or singing
COLOPHON	:	a publisher's and/or printer's distinctive emblem, monogram or cipher
DENOUEMENT	:	the final unfolding or a plot; the final resolution or outcome following the climax
DOGGEREL	:	poetic verse of generally poor quality; verse characterized by a crude, rough, irregular, or burlesque style
EUPHEMISM	:	a pleasant or complimentary word or phrase used instead of one that is harsh or derogatory to prevent the conveyance of a bluntly honest opinion
FIGURATIVE	:	metaphoric; not to be interpreted literally
MISSIVE	:	a letter, usually formal or official
ODE	:	a literary or musical work
PLAGIARISM	:	the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own

PARASITE

person or animal that lives at another's expense

- ☑ **Syn.** scrounger, leech
- ✗ Sameer was a parasite wasting his wife's money in drinking and gambling.

PARIAH N.

a person ostracised by civilisation, an outcast of society

- ☑ **Syn.** exile, outsider, recluse
- ✗ For his beliefs, Vidyasagar was initially declared a pariah.

PARITY – equality

- ☑ **Syn.** equivalence, congruence
- ★ **Ant.** disparity, inequality
- ✗ Mrs. Ramanna tried to maintain parity between her two children, although each claimed she favoured the other.

PARLANCE N.

a special way of talking or conversing, expression, verbiage

- ☑ **Syn.** idiom, phrasing, dialect
- ✗ Campus parlance often shocks parents.

PARLEY N. V.

conference (also v)

- ☑ **Syn.** meeting, discussion, confab
- ✗ The parley between the two countries continues but there not much hope of an agreement.

PAROCHIAL Adj.

a restricted, narrow viewpoint; ignorant, unsophisticated

- ☑ **Syn.** narrow, provincial, insular
- ✗ The parochial boundaries of caste and colour have been detrimental to our growth.

PARODY

humorous imitation

- ☑ **Syn.** satire, lampoon
- ✗ Shahana's new play is a thinly veiled parody of corruption in the government.

PAROLE N.

conditional release of a prisoner before his sentence is actually over

- ✗ The crime was committed while the prisoner was out on parole.

PAROXYSM N.

a wild, uncontrollable fit of anger; rage, wrath

- ☑ **Syn.** convulsion, fit, outburst, spasm
- ✗ These proposals have thrown many people into paroxysms of rage.

PARRY V.

ward off a blow, deflect

- ☑ **Syn.** avert, block, counter, evade
- ✗ The boxer ducked and parried the blow.

PARODY

humorous imitation

- ☑ **Syn.** satire, lampoon
- ✗ Shahana's new play is a thinly veiled parody of corruption in the government.

PARSIMONIOUS Adj. PARSIOMY N.

miserly with money, stingy, thrifty

- ☑ **Syn.** economical, frugal, saving
- ★ **Ant.** wastrel, spendthrift, squanderer
- ✗ His parsimonious attitude denied him of friends.

PARSIMONY

stinginess

- ☑ **Syn.** thrift, miserliness
- ★ **Ant.** extravagance, generosity
- ✗ Ethel gained a reputation for parsimony when she refused to pay for her daughter's college education.

PARVENU N.

a person who has recently acquired riches

- ✗ Rich tastes cannot be expected of a parvenu.

PASSE Adj.

not in current use, old-fashioned, outdated, obsolete

- ✗ Manual typewriters are passe.

PASTICHE N.

imitation of another's style in musical composition or in writing

- ☑ **Syn.** take off, imitation, spoof
- ✗ The critic wrote that the author's latest work was a mere pastiche and lacked originality.

PASTORAL Adj.

related to a calm, peaceful village life, of the country, rustic, bucolic

- ☑ **Syn.** rustic, countrified, rural
- ★ **Ant.** urban, city, town, municipal
- ✗ The paintings depict beautiful pastoral settings that remind me of my childhood on the farm.

PATERNITY

fatherhood, acquired from the father

- ✗ In this week's episode, the serial's star refuses to reveal the paternity of her child.

PATENT

official document giving exclusive commercial right to an invention

- ☑ **Syn.** copyright, licence
- ✗ Margaret regretted that though she had developed the machine first, she had not bothered to get a patent for it.

PATHOGENIC

causing disease

- ☑ **Syn.** infective, morbid
- ✗ Bina's research on pathogenic organisms should help stop the spread of disease.

PATHOS N.

the quality which arouses a feeling of sorrow, strings of pity, poignancy

☑ **Syn.** sadness, pity, sorrow

★ **Ant.** joy, delight, pleasure

☒ Thomas Hardy's novels were built around pathos.

PATOIS N.

local or provincial dialect

☑ **Syn.** vernacular, local parlance, argot

☒ It may be the same language but the difference in the patois as one moves from village to village is simply fascinating.

PATRICIDE N.

murder of one's own father

☒ In the heat of the moment he committed patricide.

PATRIMONY

heritage derived from one's father

☑ **Syn.** inheritance, legacy

☒ After the will was read, Pooja asked her brother to donate his share of the patrimony to charity.

PATRONAGE N. PATRONISE V.

giving support or encouragement; support, act superior toward

☑ **Syn.** support, backing, aid

☒ Bharat Bhavan survives under central government patronage.

PAUCITY N.

scarcity, lack of enough amount, dearth

☑ **Syn.** scarcity, rareness

★ **Ant.** plethora, excess, surfeit

☒ The paucity of funds does not deter a diligent worker.

PAVILION

tent or light building used for shelter or exhibitions

☑ **Syn.** marquee, arbour, pergola, bower, gazebo, porch

☒ The caterers decorated the pavilion lavishly with lights, streamers and balloons.

PAUPER N.

a poor person, beggar

☒ His gambling turned him into a pauper.

PECCADILLO N.

a small error, minor fault, minor flaw, small offense

☑ **Syn.** sin, offence, failing, crime

★ **Ant.** asset, virtue

☒ He dismissed what had happened as a mere peccadillo.

PECUNIARY N.

referring to money, monetary, fiscal

☑ **Syn.** financial, fiscal, economic

☒ Some hard decisions are overdue in the pecuniary arena.

PEDAGOGUE N.

unpleasant pedantic teacher, who gives too much attention to formal rules and is tedious

☒ The pedagogues keep students away from colleges.

PEDANT N. PEDANTIC Adj.

a person always trying to show off his knowledge by pointing out minor errors, a nitpicking type

☑ **Syn.** doctrinaire, sophist

★ **Ant.** amateur, dabbler

☒ In college, where students can often choose their professors, pedants may find their classrooms rather empty.

PEDESTRIAN(adj.) – commonplace

(n) – person on foot, walker

☑ **Syn.** plodding, unimaginative, stroller

★ **Ant.** imaginative, inspired

☒ Although the restaurant's prices were high, critics considered its food little more than pedestrian.

PAEDIATRICIAN

doctor specialising in the care of children and their ailments

☒ She chose to be a paediatrician because she loved working with children.

PEER N.

a person of the same rank or class or group

☑ **Syn.** gaze, stare, examine

★ **Ant.** glance, look, glimpse

☒ Peer group pressures dictate teenage behaviour.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. paradox | a. satirical imitation |
| 2. parochial | b. obvious |
| 3. parody | c. narrow in point of view |
| 4. parsimonious | d. contradictory truth |
| 5. patent | e. stingy |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

PEERLESS

unequalled

- ☑ **Syn.** incomparable, unmatched
- ✎ Harpreet's dedication to the cause of creating greater awareness about leprosy has been peerless.

PEEVED Adj., **PEEVISH** Adj.

annoyed, bad tempered

- ☑ **Syn.** annoyed, irritated, irked, piqued
- ★ **Ant.** pleased, satisfied, content
- ✎ They were peeved that the trip was reduced from the usual three weeks to 10 days.

PEJORATIVE Adj.

disapproving, disparaging, making something worse

- ☑ **Syn.** derogatory, negative, critical
- ★ **Ant.** positive, optimistic, helpful
- ✎ Something terrible must have happened for 'home' to have such a pejorative connotation for him.

PELLUCID Adj.

transparent, limpid

Syn. clear, comprehensible, lucid

Ant. clouded, vague, confusing

- ✎ Readers enjoy Stephen Hawkin's pellucid writing.

PENANCE N.

punishment accepted to make amends for some sins committed earlier

- ☑ **Syn.** atonement, contrition, remorse
- ✎ As penance, she said she would buy them all a box of chocolates.

PENCHANT (*PAYSHAY*) N.

a strong liking or inclination for something

- ☑ **Syn.** liking, fondness
- ✎ His penchant for cars turned him into a car collector.
- ✎ Her penchant for disappearing for days at a time worries her family.

PENITENT N.

one who is sorry for having done something wrong

- ☑ **Syn.** apologetic, remorseful
- ✎ A penitent Bharat followed Ram to the forest.

PENSIVE Adj.

dreamily thoughtful; contemplative

Syn. philosophical, cogitative, ruminative

Ant. joyful, cheerful

- ✎ I tried to cheer Mohan out of his pensive mood.

PENULTIMATE

next to last

- ✎ The low-scoring cricket match ended in the first hour of the penultimate day of the five-day test.

PENURY N.

extreme poverty, great lack of something

- ☑ **Syn.** poverty, destitution
- ★ **Ant.** affluence
- ✎ His childhood was spent in penury.

PERDITION N.

damnation; complete ruin

Syn. doom, condemnation, destruction

- ✎ The clergy spoke passionately about perdition for all sinners.

PEREGRINATION N.

journey

- ✎ The political leader undertook a peregrination across the country, in what he called a "journey of discovery."

PEREMPTORY Adj.

demanding and leaving no choice

- ☑ **Syn.** authoritative, dictatorial
- ★ **Ant.** polite, civil, gracious
- ✎ It was a peremptory order for promotion with transfer and he had to accept it.

PERENNIAL – present throughout the year, persistent

- ☑ **Syn.** ceaseless, perpetual
- ★ **Ant.** seasonal, temporary
- ✎ This is a perennial flowering plant and will look good in your garden.

PERFIDY N. **PERFIDIOUS** adj.

faithlessness, disloyalty, treachery

- ☑ **Syn.** disloyalty, deceit, lying
- ✎ The double agent was punished for his perfidy.

PERFUNCTORY Adj.

mechanical, rapid, superficial, symbolic, hollow

- ☑ **Syn.** unthinking, automatic, dutiful
- ★ **Ant.** thoughtful, considerate
- ✎ Perfunctory medical examinations often fail to detect serious ailments.

PERIPATETIC Adj.

walking about; moving

- ☑ **Syn.** nomadic, itinerant, migrant
- ★ **Ant.** stationary, fixed, unmoving
- ✎ Finally, tired of his peripatetic lifestyle, he decided to settle down with a stable job.

PERJURE V. **PERJURY** N.

to tell lies in a court of law where you have sworn to tell the truth

- ☑ **Syn.** equivocate, misstate, concoct
- ✎ Perjury is a punishable offence under the law.

PERMEABLE

penetrable

- ☑ **Syn.** porous, absorbent
- ★ **Ant.** impermeable, watertight
- ⌘ Karishma discovered that her new raincoat was permeable when she was drenched in the rain, in spite of wearing the coat.

PERNICIOUS N.

harmful, evil, bad, wicked

- ☑ **Syn.** destructive, harmful, deadly
- ★ **Ant.** harmless, safe, nontoxic
- ⌘ The pernicious effects of alcohol and tobacco cannot be debated.

PERPETRATE V.

commit an offence

Syn. inflict, wreak, bring about

- ⌘ The insurgents perpetrated a series of offences against the government.

PERPETUAL

endless, lasting

- ☑ **Syn.** everlasting, eternal
- ★ **Ant.** transitory, intermittent
- ⌘ Although objects may appear solid, electrons that make up every object are actually in perpetual motion.

PERSECUTE V.

to torment, to treat cruelly

- ☑ **Syn.** hound, pursue, bully
- ⌘ Galileo was persecuted for his beliefs.

PERSPICACIOUS Adj.

one who has brilliant insight, sharp

- ☑ **Syn.** insightful, wise, astute
- ★ **Ant.** dense, opaque, solid
- ⌘ His perspicacious grandfather had bought the land as an investment, guessing that there might be gold underground.

PERT Adj.

impertinent, forward

- ☑ **Syn.** animated, alert, lively
- ★ **Ant.** listless, languid, lethargic
- ⌘ Your pert remarks will do you no good; it might result in a loss.

PERTINACIOUS Adj.

stubborn; persistent

- ☑ **Syn.** tenacious, assiduous, resolute, intractable
- ★ **Ant.** tentative, irresolute, wavering
- ⌘ Sujata was very pertinacious in her quest for the right information.

PERTINENT

applicable, appropriate

- ☑ **Syn.** relevant, apposite
- ★ **Ant.** irrelevant, inappropriate
- ⌘ The supervisor felt that his employee's complaints were pertinent and mentioned them in the meeting.

PERTURB V.

to disturb, make anxious, to bother greatly or annoy, to disquiet, discompose

- ☑ **Syn.** trouble
- ⌘ The news that her son had been arrested by the police perturbed her greatly.

PERTURBATION

disturbance

- ☑ **Syn.** fluster, discomfiture
- ★ **Ant.** reassurance, comfort
- ⌘ Grandpa sleeps so soundly that no perturbation can wake him up.

PERUSAL

close examination

- ☑ **Syn.** scrutiny, inspection
- ⌘ When you fly, your carry-on luggage is always subject to the perusal of customs officials.

PERUSE V.

inspect, comprehend, examine

- ☑ **Syn.** read thoroughly, scrutinise
- ★ **Ant.** skim, glide, float
- ⌘ He opened a newspaper and began to peruse the personal advertisements.

PERVASIVE Adj. , PERVADE V.

spread throughout; become part of something else, to permeate

- ☑ **Syn.** invasive, insidious
- ★ **Ant.** enveloping, persistent
- ⌘ The government's reforms are being undermined by all-pervasive corruption in the country.

PERVERSION N.

corruption, turning from right to wrong

- ☑ **Syn.** parody, caricature, distortion
- ⌘ He was always honest, upright and straightforward; so it is difficult to understand his perversion.

PERVERT(v)

to cause to change in immoral way; to misuse

(n) – degenerate, debauchee

- ☑ **Syn.** distort, warp
- ★ **Ant.** consecrate, sanctify
- ⌘ Chandan objected when the opposing lawyer seemed to be perverting the truth.

PETRIFY V.

to turn to stone, to horrify, to scare

- ☑ **Syn.** frighten, terrify, horrify
- ⌘ It was a petrifying sight at Latur after the tremors stopped.

PETTY Adj.

trivial, unimportant, very small

- ☑ **Syn.** little, trivial
- ★ **Ant.** important, vital, significant
- ⌘ It is surprising that petty quarrels ultimately led to the couple's separation.

PETULANT Adj. **PETULANCE** N.

irritable, bad-tempered, ill-humoured and peevish, occasionally rude, ill-mannered

☑ **Syn.** huffy, snappish, grouchy

★ **Ant.** relaxed, easygoing, calm

☒ One colleague recalled the dancer's petulant refusal to collect an award because her name had been wrongly pronounced.

PHILANDERER N.

faithless lover, flirt

☑ **Syn.** libertine, playboy, seducer

★ **Ant.** chaste, faithful

☒ No woman would ever want a philanderer as her husband.

PHILANTHROPY Adj.

monetary or volunteer promotion of mankind's welfare, generous giving of self or resources

☒ Your generous acts of philanthropy are greatly appreciated by the beneficiary institutions.

PHILATELIST N.

stamp collector

☒ The high value of the old rare stamps is what motivates many to become philatelists.

PHILISTINE N.

person unsympathetic to the arts, narrow-minded

☒ I wouldn't have expected them to enjoy a film of that quality anyway -- they're just a bunch of philistines!

PHLEGMATIC Adj.

calm, not easily annoyed, imperturbable, sluggish, slow, showing little emotions, impassive, stolid

☑ **Syn.** apathetic, indifferent, placid

★ **Ant.** energetic, lively, active

☒ As a footballer his great asset was his calm, phlegmatic manner.

PHOBIA

exaggerated illogical fear

☑ **Syn.** dread, fixation

★ **Ant.** obsession, mania

☒ According to Tanya her phobia of spiders started when she was bitten by one in the school.

PHONETICS

study of speech sounds

☒ The field of phonetics had interested Ila ever since she conquered her stammering as a teenager.

PICTURESQUE Adj.

very artistic, beautiful, charming, special, uncommon

☑ **Syn.** charming, striking, quaint

☒ The picturesque sights of Kashmir attract thousands of tourists from all over the world.

PIEBALD Adj.

of different colours; mottled; spotted

☑ **Syn.** speckled, pied, variegated

☒ The farmer rode a piebald horse.

PILFER

to steal

☑ **Syn.** embezzle, misappropriate

☒ Marianne did not pilfer the money for herself but rather for her sick brother, who needed some medicine.

PILFERAGE N.

theft, burglary, misappropriation

☒ Railways lose millions due to pilferage.

PINNACLE N.

the topmost point, acme, apex, peak, zenith

☑ **Syn.** summit, peak, height

★ **Ant.** base, bottom, foot

☒ Indian cricket was at its pinnacle in the 70's.

PIOUS

dedicated, devout, extremely religious

☑ **Syn.** spiritual, sanctimonious

★ **Ant.** irreligious, impious

☒ Shantanu, a pious man, walks to the temple everyday and prays.

PIQUANT Adj.

pleasantly interesting, amusing

☑ **Syn.** spicy, hot

★ **Ant.** bland, insipid

☒ More piquant details of the former official's private life were revealed.

PIQUE N.

resentment, annoyance, indignation

☑ **Syn.** interest, attract

☒ He stormed from the room in a fit of pique shouting that he had been misunderstood.

PITHY Adj. **PITH** N.

concise, meaty; core, marrow, essence

☑ **Syn.** terse, condensed, curt

★ **Ant.** convoluted, complicated

☒ He gave a pithy summary of his political views.

PITTANCE N.

low wages or allowances

☑ **Syn.** meagre amount, trifle, nothing

☒ When you pay a pittance, don't expect the best brains to work for you.

PLACATE V.

to calm, soothe, make less angry, assuage, allay, appease, particularly by offering to be good; to do a favour for someone

☑ **Syn.** pacify, conciliate

★ **Ant.** enrage, infuriate

☒ It takes skill, experience and guts to placate an irate mob.

PLACEBO N.

an innocuous or inert medication, given as a pacifier or as part of experiments on the efficacy of a drug

- ☑ **Syn.** sop, gesture
- ☒ Placebos are sometimes used to treat psychosomatic disorders.

PLACID

calm, imperturbable

- ☑ **Syn.** tranquil, serene
- ★ **Ant.** turbulent, temperamental
- ☒ Looking at Aparna's placid expression, no one could tell that she was inwardly seething with rage.

PLAGIARISM N. , PLAGIARISE V.

copying the work of someone else, theft; steal another's ideas

- ☑ **Syn.** copying, lifting, bootlegging
- ☒ The editor has the experience and the skill to know whether a work is plagiarism or original.

PLAINTIFF

injured person in a lawsuit

- ★ **Ant.** defendant
- ☒ The lawyer asked the plaintiff to rise and show the court his injuries.

PLAINTIVE Adj.

sad, gloomy, melancholy, dismal, doleful

- ☑ **Syn.** mournful, sad, nostalgic
- ☒ The plaintive notes of violin are pervading the atmosphere.

PLATITUDE N.

cliche, banality, commonplace phrases, an old and stale comment lacking originality or freshness, trite remark

- ☑ **Syn.** cliché, inanity, banality
- ☒ We'll get the usual politicians who'll mouth the usual platitudes about 'the glories of democracy.'

PLATONIC Adj.

non-sexual love between a man and a woman

- ☑ **Syn.** spiritual, friendly, nonphysical
- ☒ Platonic relationships are rare in today's materialistic world.

PLAUDIT N.

enthusiastic approval; round of applause

- ☒ The movie generated great reviews and earned plaudits from the classes and the masses alike.

PLEBEIAN Adj.

common, pertaining to the common people, concerning the common folk or masses (often used in a derogatory way)

- ☑ **Syn.** blue collar, working class
- ★ **Ant.** aristocratic, noble
- ☒ Politicians make speeches calculated to appeal to plebeian minds.

PLETHORA N.

excess, overabundance, a vast amount, great excess

- ☑ **Syn.** overabundance, excess, surfeit
- ★ **Ant.** shortage, lack, deficiency
- ☒ Our library boasts of a plethora of books on modern and ancient literature.

PLIANT Adj.

flexible, easily influenced

- ☑ **Syn.** pliable, flexible
- ★ **Ant.** stiff, rigid, taut
- ☒ It is not healthy to force children to be too pliant.

PLIGHT N.

condition, state, predicament

Syn. difficulty, trouble, extremity

- ☒ The article highlighted the plight of child labourers in the country.

PLUCK N.

courage

- ☑ **Syn.** nerve, guts, resolve
- ★ **Ant.** cowardice, fearfulness
- ☒ I was amazed at the pluck of the frail woman fighting to get justice from the law.

PLUMMET V.

to fall sharply, to erode soon

- ☑ **Syn.** plunge, drop, dive
- ☒ A recently published report suggests that the levels of literacy have plummeted across the nation.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. perfunctory | a. deadly |
| 2. perjury | b. love for mankind |
| 3. pernicious | c. relevant |
| 4. pertinent | d. lying under oath |
| 5. philanthropy | e. unenthusiastic |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

PLURALISTIC

including a variety of groups

- ✎ The United States is a pluralistic society, incorporating a wide range of groups.

PLUTOCRACY N. , PLUTOCRATS N.

government by the very rich; barons, industrialists

- ✎ The first few self-governments under British-rule were plutocracies.

PLY

to use diligently, to operate, to join together

- ☑ **Syn.** manipulate, operate
- ✎ The weaver plied the fibres and made a blanket as if by magic.

PNEUMATIC

relating to air, worked by compressed air

- ✎ The rebel launched a missile with the help of a pneumatic gun.

PODIUM

platform or lectern for orchestra conductors or speakers

- ✎ The audience could see Tara shaking as she walked up to the podium.

POIGNANT Adj. POIGNANCY N.

very moving, sad, heartbreaking, sentimental, maudlin, profoundly affecting feelings, highly emotional in effect, piercing

- ☑ **Syn.** moving, emotional, distressing
- ★ **Ant.** unemotional, pokerfaced
- ✎ Nirmal Verma's novels are poignant in theme and complex in style.

POLAR

relating to a geographic pole, exhibiting contrast

- ☑ **Syn.** frozen, conflicting
- ★ **Ant.** molten, analogous
- ✎ Though Sean and Angelina are polar in temperament, they have been happily married for nine years.

POLARISE

to tend towards opposite extremes

- ☑ **Syn.** antagonise, collide
- ★ **Ant.** accord, concord
- ✎ The leaders feared the conflict would polarise the group into two separate camps.

POLEMICAL Adj. , POLEMIC N.

controversial; controversy, argument in support of point of view

- ✎ Throughout her regime Mrs Gandhi remained a polemical leader.
- ✎ Her polemical essays are rather naïve and simplistic.

POLITIC

discreet, tactful

- ☑ **Syn.** diplomatic, sagacious
- ★ **Ant.** unwise, injudicious
- ✎ Her prompt and politic management of the crisis led to her re-election the following year.

POLYGLOT

speaker of many languages

- ☑ **Syn.** linguist, multilingual person
- ✎ Vandana's extensive travels have helped her to become a true polyglot.

PONDER N. , PONDEROUS Adj.

to think deeply; heavy

- ☑ **Syn.** consider, think about, mull over
- ✎ He sat back in his chair to ponder his next move in the chess game.

PONTIFICATE V. , PONTIFICAL Adj.

to speak or write in a pompous way; pertaining to a bishop or Pope, pompous or pretentious

- ☑ **Syn.** be dogmatic, preach
- ✎ Grandfather will pontificate on any subject if you let him.

POROUS

full of holes, permeable to liquids

- ☑ **Syn.** penetrable, absorbent
- ★ **Ant.** impenetrable, impervious
- ✎ Unfortunately, the tent was more porous than we thought and the rain soaked us to the bone.

PORTENT N. , PORTEND V.

a warning that something unpleasant is going to happen

- ☑ **Syn.** omen, sign, presage
- ✎ The report reveals some worrying economic portents for the coming year.

PORTLY Adj.

stout; corpulent

- ☑ **Syn.** plump, paunchy, pot-bellied
- ★ **Ant.** slim, thin
- ✎ He was easy to spot, a portly figure in a tight-fitting jacket and bow tie.

POSTERIOR

bottom, rear

- ☑ **Syn.** hind, rear end
- ★ **Ant.** front, anterior
- ✎ The veterinarian injected the antibiotics into the posterior of the animal.

POSTERITY N.

generations which will follow, offsprings, descendants

- ✎ Every attempt is being made to ensure that these works of art are preserved for posterity.

POSTHUMOUS Adj.

after death, occurring after death (as posthumously published manuscripts)

- ✎ Emily Dickinson, the American metaphysical poetess, got recognition posthumously.

POTABLE

drinkable

- ✎ Though the water was potable, it tasted terrible.

POTENTATE

monarch or ruler with great power

- ☑ **Syn.** emperor, overlord
- ☒ Alex was a much kinder person before he assumed the role of potentate and it went to his head.

POTPOURRI N.

general mixture of bits and pieces

- ☑ **Syn.** hodgepodge, assortment
- ☒ India is famous in the world for its potpourri of cultures, races and religions.

POUND V.

to hit hard, to run heavily

- ☑ **Syn.** hit, strike, beat, hammer
- ☒ My heart was pounding as I opened the letter from the IIM.

PRAGMATIC Adj. , **PRAGMATIST** N.

dealing with facts, not theory; practical, useful, down-to-earth; sometimes excluding artistic or intellectual endeavours

- ☑ **Syn.** practical, realistic, sensible
- * **Ant.** idealistic, optimistic, romantic
- ☒ Deng's pragmatic approach towards the economy turned China into a super power in just over two decades.

PRATTLE V.

to talk in a childish manner

- ☑ **Syn.** chatter, blather, natter
- ☒ Many radio listeners are bored with DJs who prattle on instead of playing music.

PRECARIOUS Adj.

likely to fall, uncertain, subject to chance or circumstances beyond control, risky or hazardous

- ☑ **Syn.** shaky, unstable, insecure, unsafe
- * **Ant.** stable, steady, firm
- ☒ The precarious foreign exchange situation improved slowly under the new government.

PRECEDENT N. Adj.

something preceding in time that may be used as an authority or guide for future action, something occurring before they may serve as a model for subsequent, similar acts, antecedent

- ☑ **Syn.** standard, instance, example
- ☒ Sadly there are precedents of accidents happening at railway crossings.

PRECIPICE N.

cliff; dangerous situation

Syn. rock face

- ☒ Stallone found himself dangling precariously from a precipice.

PRECIPITOUS Adj.

very steep, spectacular, meteoric, impulsive

- ☑ **Syn.** steep, sheer, abrupt
- * **Ant.** gentle, mild, calm, cool
- ☒ We slowly made our way down the precipitous mountain path.

PRECIPITATE V.

to make something happen suddenly

- ☒ An invasion would certainly precipitate a political crisis.

PRECISION

state of being precise

- ☑ **Syn.** exactitude, accuracy
- * **Ant.** vagueness, bluntness
- ☒ The watchmaker assembled the tiny parts with remarkable precision and speed.

PRECLUDE V.

to prevent something from happening, prevent, inhibit, to make impossible or ineffectual by planning or acting in advance, to forestall, hinder, avert, prevent

- ☑ **Syn.** prevent, stop, rule out, bar
- * **Ant.** permit, allow, authorise
- ☒ Hoping to preclude any chance of failure in the competition, Durga practised over and over again.

PRECOCIOUS N. Adj.

a child extremely advanced for its age, having unusual early mental development; talented, gifted

- ☑ **Syn.** intelligent, bright, gifted
- * **Ant.** slow, sluggish, leisurely
- ☒ The precocious child could speak three languages by the time he was eight years old.

PRECURSOR N.

a person or thing which goes in advance, ancestor, predecessor, forerunner

- ☑ **Syn.** pioneer
- * **Ant.** successor, heir, descendent
- ☒ Selection for Ranji Trophy games is usually a precursor to selection for the national team, but there have been exceptions.

PREDATOR N. , **PREDATORY** Adj.

animal which lives by eating other animals; plundering, preying

- ☑ **Syn.** marauder, killer
- ☒ The antelopes are on their guard against lions and other predators.

PREDICAMENT N.

a difficult situation, troubles, crisis, dilemma

- ☑ **Syn.** mess, jam, pickle, fix
- ☒ With no money, no job and nowhere to live, he found himself in a real predicament.

PREDILECTION N.

partiality, preference, positive feelings or opinion held beforehand, natural preference, prejudice

- ☑ **Syn.** fondness, liking, preference
- * **Ant.** dislike, hate, abhor
- ☒ Ever since she was a child, she has had a predilection for spicy food.

PREDISPOSITION

tendency, inclination

- ☑ **Syn.** susceptibility, proneness
- ★ **Ant.** immunity, aversion
- ✗ I have a predisposition to be suspicious of used car salesmen, even though some of them may be honest.

PRE-EMPTY V. , PRE-EMPTION N. ,

to get an advantage by doing something before anyone else

- ☑ **Syn.** forestall, anticipate, block
- ✗ The accused filed for anticipatory bail in an effort to pre-empt his imminent arrest.

PREEN V.

Make oneself tidy in appearance; feel self-satisfaction

- ☑ **Syn.** tidy, smooth, arrange
- ✗ She preened herself before the mirror before leaving for the party.

PREMEDITATE

to consider, plan beforehand

- ☑ **Syn.** cogitate, deliberate
- ★ **Ant.** falter, vacillate
- ✗ The district attorney had to prove that the murder was premeditated for the jury to consider the maximum penalty.

PREMONITION N. , PREMONITORY Adj.

feeling that something unpleasant is going to happen; serving to warn

- ☑ **Syn.** feeling, intuition, hunch
- ✗ He stopped swimming because his friend had a premonition that he might drown.

PREPONDERANCE N.

superiority of power, quantity etc.

- ✗ The preponderance of the English speaking middle class is one of the biggest factors in the emergence of the BPO sector in India.

PREPOSTEROUS Adj.

silly, absurd, fantastic, bizarre

- ☑ **Syn.** ridiculous, absurd, silly
- ★ **Ant.** sensible, sane, rational
- ✗ The themes of Hindi films are often preposterous.

PREROGATIVE N.

privilege belonging to one person or a group, special rights

- ☑ **Syn.** privilege, right, due, choice
- ✗ Defence and foreign policy will remain the prerogative of the centre, while the new states will control their own economies and resources.

PRESAGE

to foretell, indicate in advance

- ☑ **Syn.** prophesy, portend
- ✗ The demolition of the Berlin Wall presaged the fall of the Soviet Union.

PRESENTIMENT

premonition, sense of foreboding

- ☑ **Syn.** intuition, inkling
- ✗ I had a presentiment of doom when I saw the manager heading towards us with an angry look on his face.

PRESCIENT Adj. , PRESCIENCE N.

person who can tell about future; ability to foretell the future

- ☑ **Syn.** prophetic, psychic, clairvoyant
- ✗ Their prescient comments about the dangers of lead were made some six years before research showed that lead in drinking water harmed children.

PRESUMPTUOUS Adj.

rude and bold, arrogant, impudent, presuming or assuming too much in an overbearing way, overweening, overstepping.

- ☑ **Syn.** swoop, jump, jump out
- ✗ It is never presumptuous to demand what is rightfully yours.

PRETEXT N.

excuse

- ☑ **Syn.** alleged reason, cause, ploy, ruse
- ✗ He has a plethora of pretexts not to start the project at all.

PREVARICATE V.

to try not to tell the truth, to stray from the truth, to lie or equivocate

- ☑ **Syn.** hedge, evade, quibble, dither
- ✗ It was obvious that the witness was trying to prevaricate.

PRIM Adj.

very precise and formal

- ✗ She is always very prim and proper in her attire and appears composed all the time.

PRIMORDIAL Adj.

existing at the beginning (of time), rudimentary

- ☑ **Syn.** primeval, primal, elemental
- ✗ The trip took us through ancient, primordial rain forests.

PRISTINE Adj.

fresh, unspoilt, new or almost new

- ☑ **Syn.** immaculate, perfect, pure
- ★ **Ant.** soiled, dirty, mucky
- ✗ They moved into a pristine house which was totally furnished.

PRIVATION N.

hardship, want

- ☑ **Syn.** adversity, poverty, neediness
- ✗ Several villages suffered serious privations during the long spell of rainless months.

PROBITY N.

uprightness, incorruptibility, sticking to noble ideas

- ☑ **Syn.** goodness, decency, honesty
- ★ **Ant.** wickedness, evil, sin
- ✗ Probity in the public life of a person contributes to making him a charismatic leader.

PROCLIVITY N.

inclination, natural tendency, inherent leaning towards something objectionable

- ☑ **Syn.** liking, appetite, taste, penchant
- ☒ His proclivity for alcohol was almost as well-known as his poetry.

PROCRASTINATE V.

to postpone, put off, to delay until another time

- ☑ **Syn.** delay, postpone, adjourn
- ☒ Procrastination leads to mismanagement.

PROCURE

to obtain

- ☑ **Syn.** acquire, secure
- ★ **Ant.** bequeath, dispose of
- ☒ I was able to procure tickets to the premiere of the new Star Wars movie.

PRODIGAL Adj.

plentiful, extravagant, cornucopian

- ☑ **Syn.** wasteful, reckless, dissolute
- ★ **Ant.** cautious, careful, alert
- ☒ There have been rumours that he was prodigal with company funds.

PRODIGIOUS Adj.

marvellous; enormous

- ☒ We marvelled at the prodigious arches of the cathedral building.

PRODIGY N. , **PRODIGIOUS** Adj.

genius, wizard; inspiring awe, extremely large, enormous, monstrous

- ☑ **Syn.** genius, sensation, phenomenon
- ☒ Most child prodigies go on to become maestros in their chosen field.

PROFANE Adj.

obscene, crude, lewd, blasphemous

- ☑ **Syn.** irreverent, wicked, sacrilegious
- ★ **Ant.** pious, devout, virtuous, moral
- ☒ Profane literature is causing undue damage to young minds.

PROFICIENT

expert, skilled in a certain subject

- ☑ **Syn.** accomplished, dexterous
- ★ **Ant.** inept, incompetent
- ☒ The mechanic was proficient at repairing vintage cars.

PROFLIGACY N. , **PROFLIGATE** Adj.

extravagance, wild spending; dissipated, wasteful, licentious

- ☑ **Syn.** dissolution, decadence
- ★ **Ant.** parsimony, frugality, prudence
- ☒ Fiscal profligacy of the government leads to huge deficits.

PROFOUND Adj.

very serious, very deep, esoteric, severe

- ☑ **Syn.** deep, thoughtful, reflective
- ★ **Ant.** superficial, surface, shallow
- ☒ The most profound influence on a child is that of its parents and teachers.

PROFUSE Adj. **PROFUSION** N.

abundant, excessive, plentiful, extravagant; lavish expenditure, overabundant condition

- ☑ **Syn.** plentiful, copious, prolific
- ★ **Ant.** scanty, insufficient, very little
- ☒ In our wedding receptions, food and drinks are served in profusion.
- ☒ The company accepted blame and sent us profuse apologies.

PROGENY N.

offspring, scion, descendant, child

- ☑ **Syn.** children, young, descendants
- ☒ Pandit Nehru's progeny could not match his charisma.

PROGRESSIVE

favouring progress or change, moving forward, going step-by-step

- ☑ **Syn.** accelerating, enterprising
- ★ **Ant.** conservative, reactionary
- ☒ The progressive party pushed for reforms, while the conservatives tried to maintain status quo.

PROLETARIAT N. , **PROLETARIAN** N.

the working class, common people, peasant class; member of the working class

- ☑ **Syn.** grassroots, workers, plebs
- ★ **Ant.** aristocracy, landed gentry
- ☒ Communism basically purported governance by the proletarians.

PROLIFERATE V. , **PROLIFERATION** N.

grow rapidly, spread, multiply

- ☑ **Syn.** reproduce, propagate, multiply
- ☒ Seedy projects for making easy money have been proliferating in our country.

PROLIFIC Adj.

fertile, creative, voluminous, multifarious, extremely fruitful or productive, fecund

- ☑ **Syn.** productive, creative, fruitful
- ☒ Sidney Sheldon is a prolific writer who manages to give best sellers with his each new book.

PROLIXITY N. **PROLIX** Adj.

tedious wordiness; verbosity

Syn. circumlocution, wordiness

Ant. succinct; terse

- ☒ He found the book too prolix and boring.

PROLOGUE

introductory section of a literary work or play

- ☑ **Syn.** foreword, preface
- ★ **Ant.** epilogue, postscript
- ✍ The novel's prologue introduces the narrator of the story.

PROMISCUOUS Adj.

lecherous, wanton, indiscriminate, immoral, mixed

- ☑ **Syn.** immoral, loose, licentious
- ✍ The sixties are synonymous with promiscuous sex and free living.

PROMULGATE V.

to make a law known to the public, announce, proclaim

- ☑ **Syn.** broadcast, propagate, spread
- ✍ Aurangzeb promulgated Zazia.

PROPENSITY N.

fondness, inclination, disposition, distinct and sometimes strong natural tendency or inclination, leaning

- ☑ **Syn.** partiality
- ✍ She's inherited from her father a propensity to talk too much.

PROPHECY V. PROPHETIC Adj.

to foretell what will happen in the future, predict, anticipate; having to do with predicting the future

- ☑ **Syn.** predict, forecast, envisage
- ✍ The minister suggested that the dire prophecies of certain leading environmentalists were somewhat exaggerated.

PROPHYLACTIC Adj.

used to prevent disease

- ✍ Despite all the prophylactic measures by the doctor, she succumbed to her injuries.

PROPINQUITY N.

nearness; kinship

- ✍ Their propinquity during college days blossomed into a lifelong friendship.

PROFITIOUS Adj.

favourable, auspicious

- ☑ **Syn.** promising
- ✍ With the economy in the worst recession for 30 years, it was scarcely the most propitious time to start up a company.

PROSAIC Adj.

commonplace, dull, pedestrian, of facts, not imaginative or original, ordinary, banal

- ☑ **Syn.** mundane, colourless, ordinary
- ★ **Ant.** inspiring, stirring, exciting
- ✍ Most of our magazines are full of prosaic writings.

PROSCRIBE V. , PROSCRIPTION N.

to forbid by law, prohibit, outlaw

- ☑ **Syn.** ban, bar, forbid, disallow
- ★ **Ant.** permit, allow, make available
- ✍ Consuming alcohol is proscribed in Gujarat.

PROSELYTISE V.

Induce someone to convert to a religion or belief.

- ✍ It is wrong for people to proselytise in the guise of charity work.

PROSECUTE V.

to bring to court to answer a charge

- ☑ **Syn.** put on trial, act against, impeach
- ✍ They will prosecute him for laxity in duty.

PROSECUTOR

person who initiates a legal action or suit

- ☑ **Syn.** attorney, legal agent
- ✍ The prosecutor's aggressive questioning left the defendant flustered.

PROSTRATE

lying face downward, flat, sapped

- ☑ **Syn.** fatigued, spread-eagled
- ★ **Ant.** fresh, upright
- ✍ After taking a tumble down the stairs, Millie was found prostrate on the floor of the basement.

PROTAGONIST

main character in a play or story, champion

- ☑ **Syn.** hero, lead, star
- ★ **Ant.** minor character, opponent
- ✍ In dramatic tragedy, the protagonist often brings about his own downfall.

PROTEAN Adj.

versatile, able to take on many forms

- ☑ **Syn.** variable, changeable, mutable
- ✍ He was so protean as an artist that the critics could never categorise his work.

PROTEGE (*PROTEEJEE*) N.

person who is supported in work with money or advice by someone else

- ☑ **Syn.** responsibility, dependent
- ✍ Sam Pitroda was a Rajiv protege.

PROTOCOL

ceremony and manners observed by diplomats

- ☑ **Syn.** etiquette, convention
- ✍ Diplomats must strive to observe the correct protocol in their dealings with foreign heads of state.

PROTRUSION

something that sticks out

- ☑ **Syn.** lump, outgrowth
- ✍ The carpenter noticed a protrusion on the surface of the wood and sanded it down till it disappeared.

PROVIDENCE N., PROVIDENT Adj., PROVIDENTIAL Adj.

fate, destiny; displaying foresight, thrifty, prepared for emergencies, providing for times ahead; saving, prudent, frugal

- ☑ **Syn.** fate, chance, luck, destiny
- ⌘ Providence did not give Rajiv a second chance at premiership.
- ⌘ A provident man that he was, he had arranged everything for his family in the eventuality of his death.

PROVINCIAL

rustic, limited in scope

- ☑ **Syn.** unsophisticated, parochial
- ★ **Ant.** metropolitan, cosmopolitan
- ⌘ Anita, a sophisticated city girl, sneered at the provincial attitudes of her country cousins.

PROVOCATION

cause, incitement to act or respond

- ☑ **Syn.** goading, stimulus
- ★ **Ant.** suppression, curbing
- ⌘ Snakes seldom attack without provocation.

PROWESS N.

talent, skill, efficiency, adroitness, brains

- ☑ **Syn.** incite, aggravate, goad, needle
- ⌘ Bradman's batting prowess is legendary.

PROXIMITY N.

nearness

- ☑ **Syn.** nearby, close, adjacent
- ★ **Ant.** distant, remote, isolated
- ⌘ Too much of proximity can lead to apathy even between couples.

PROXY

power to act as a substitute for another

- ☑ **Syn.** deputy, delegate
- ⌘ The senile woman's niece produced a document that identified her as her aunt's proxy for all legal matters.

PRUDENCE N. , PRUDET N.

foresight, vigilance

- ☑ **Syn.** care, caution, discretion
- ★ **Ant.** recklessness, wildness, haste
- ⌘ The firm was commended for its financial prudence.

PRUDENT

careful, cautious

- ☑ **Syn.** wary, far-sighted
- ★ **Ant.** incautious, imprudent
- ⌘ Considering the small size of our army, it would not be prudent for us to attack right now.

PRUDISH Adj. PRUDE N.

strict, puritanical, narrow minded; excessively modest or proper person

- ☑ **Syn.** prim, stuffy, pedantic
- ☑ **Syn.** relaxed, tranquil, calm, cool
- ⌘ Prudes cannot appreciate avant garde films, art, literature etc.

PRURIENT Adj.

vulgar, obscene, lewd, raunchy

- ⌘ Prurient songs and other noises cause immeasurable harm to our psyche.

PRY V.

inquire impertinently; use leverage to raise or open something.

- ☑ **Syn.** scrutinise, probe, snoop around
- ⌘ It's not correct to pry into other people's lives.

PSEUDONYM N.

false or invented name, nom-de-plume, a pen name, any assumed name

- ☑ **Syn.** alias, false name, stage name
- ⌘ Saki was the pseudonym of H.H.Munro.

PSYCHE N.

soul, mind

- ☑ **Syn.** consciousness, awareness, mind
- ⌘ Charisma also comes from knowing the psyche of the people or the masses well.

PSYCHIC

perceptive of non-material, spiritual forces

- ☑ **Syn.** paranormal, supernatural
- ★ **Ant.** natural, normal
- ⌘ Many gullible persons have been robbed of their savings by people claiming to have psychic powers.

PUGNACIOUS Adj. PUGNACITY N.

quarrelsome, belligerent, bellicose, contentious, warlike, spoiling for a fight, combative, truculent

- ☑ **Syn.** aggressive, belligerent
- ★ **Ant.** serene, harmonious, calm
- ⌘ Sameer was a pugnacious guy, always spoiling for a fight.

PUISSANT Adj.

powerful, strong, potent

- ⌘ Being a puissant man, he expected everyone to be in awe of him.

PULCHRITUDE N.

beauty; comeliness

- ⌘ Her pulchritude was purely the product of his passion.

PULMONARY Adj.

referring to the lungs

- ⌘ Pulmonary veins carry oxygenated blood from the lungs to the heart.

PULVERISE

to pound, crush, or grind into powder; destroy

- ☑ **Syn.** mash, demolish
- ★ **Ant.** crystallise, construct
- ⌘ The polar bear has such powerful paws that one blow can pulverise a man.

PUNCTILIOUS Adj.

meticulous, conscientious, painstaking, exacting, carping, precise about observing customs and rules, conventional, scrupulously exact

☑ **Syn.** scrupulous, thorough

* **Ant.** sloppy, slack, shoddy

✗ The mistake was spotted immediately by their punctilious lawyer.

PUNDIT N.

learned Hindu, any learned person, authority on a subject.

☑ **Syn.** expert, specialist, analyst

✗ He is the new pundit in marketing.

PUNGENT

strong or sharp in smell or taste

☑ **Syn.** pervasive, nauseating

* **Ant.** bland, mild

✗ The smoke from the burning tyres was extremely pungent.

PUNITIVE Adj.

punishing

☑ **Syn.** penal, disciplinary, corrective, severe, stringent

✗ The judge ordered \$4 million in punitive damages against the convict.

PURGATION

catharsis, purification

☑ **Syn.** absolution, atonement

* **Ant.** contamination, defilement

✗ Some religions make converts undergo ritual purgation before accepting them as members of the faith.

PURGE N. V.

laxative, an elimination; eradicate, eliminate, clean; rid oneself of something unwanted; to free or eliminate

☑ **Syn.** wash out, cleanse, remove

✗ We need to purge the society of racism.

PURPORT V. N. **PURPORTED** Adj.

to mean, express, indicate, hint, imply, to appear to be something, to profess, intend; meaning that is open or suggested; substance, gist, import

☑ **Syn.** claim, assert, allege

✗ I didn't read it all but I think the purport of the letter was that he will not be returning for at least a year.

PURVEYOR N.

furnisher of foodstuffs, caterer

☑ **Syn.** supplier, seller, vendor, outlet

✗ He has been in contract as a purveyor of wine and food in the club.

PUSILLANIMOUS Adj.

timid, afraid, petty, cowardly, lacking forcefulness

☑ **Syn.** timid, cowardly, fearful, nervous

* **Ant.** brave, courageous, bold, daring

✗ He's too pusillanimous to stand up to his opponents.

PUTRID Adj.

dirty, rotten, vicious, disgusting, foul

☑ **Syn.** rotten, rotting, rancid

* **Ant.** fresh, clean, new, bright

✗ We came across the putrid body of a dead fox while we were walking in the woods.

PYRE N.

ceremonial fire

✗ A traditional Indian custom used to involve a widow burning herself alive on her husband's funeral pyre.

PYROMANIAC N.

An obsessive desire to set things on fire

☑ **Syn.** arsonist, incendiary, firebomber

✗ The police is looking for the pyromaniac responsible for the series of catastrophic fires in the area.

PYRRHIC VICTORY N.

a victory which costs the victor too much efforts

✗ Ashoka's pyrrhic victory over Kalinga led to his spiritual transformation.

Government

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

COUP	:	a sudden, violent and illegal seizure of power from a government.
INSURGENCY	:	a minor revolt against a local government; uprising
JUNTA	:	a small group, usually composed of military officers, ruling a country in the absence of a civilian government
MORATORIUM	:	an officially declared stoppage
OMBUDSMAN	:	an intermediary between a citizen and the government who investigates complaints by citizens about government agencies or officials
POTENTATE	:	a monarch, dictator, or similar person possessing great political power
REGALIA	:	emblems and trappings of a political or military office
SECEDE	:	to separate from an organized body of government
THRALLDOM	:	slavery; serfdom
USURP	:	to assume political power or office by force or without right