

# “M”

## **MACABRE** Adj.

gruesome, deathlike, horrible, eerie

- ☑ **Syn.** ghoulish, ghastly, grisly, chilling
- ☒ Even the police were horrified at the macabre nature of the killings.

## **MACHIAVELLIAN** (*MAKIAVELIEN*) Adj.

crafty, perfidious in activity, based on amoral political rules

- ☑ **Syn.** evil, wicked, deceitful, fraudulent
- ☒ The Machiavellian activities of our politicians surprise no one.

## **MACHINATE** V., **MACHINATION** N.

to form a plot for doing some harm

- ☑ **Syn.** plot, conspire, plan
- ☒ The arrested person revealed about the machinations of the assassination.

## **MACHO** Adj., **MACHISMO** N.

aggressive, dominant, domineering, he-man

- ☒ He's too macho to admit he was hurt when his girlfriend left him.

## **MACROCOSM**

the entire universe, a complex that is a large-scale reproduction of one of its parts

- ☑ **Syn.** cosmos, galaxy
- ★ **Ant.** microcosm, model
- ☒ In a welfare society, the state can be considered a macrocosm of the family in that it takes care of the elderly and children.

## **MAELSTROM**

whirlpool, turmoil, agitated state of mind

- ☑ **Syn.** tumult, eddy
- ☒ The transportation system of the city had collapsed in the maelstrom of war.

## **MAESTRO** N.

a master, especially an eminent music composer or conductor

- ☑ **Syn.** genius, expert, ace, whiz
- ★ **Ant.** amateur, unpaid, recreational
- ☒ The sitar maestro Pt. Ravishankar will give a recital this evening.

## **MAGNANIMOUS** Adj., **MAGNANIMITY** N.

generous, large-hearted, not petty, noble and generous in victory as well as defeat, forgiving

- ☑ **Syn.** benevolent, kind, chivalrous
- ★ **Ant.** petty, mean, malicious, obdurate
- ☒ Arsenal's manager was magnanimous in victory and praised the losing team.

## **MAGNATE** N.

a very powerful person, VIP, tycoon

- ☑ **Syn.** attraction, inducement, pull
- ☒ Bombay and Surat are inhabited by diamond magnates.

## **MAGNITUDE**

extent, greatness of size

- ☑ **Syn.** immensity, vastness
- ★ **Ant.** smallness, triviality
- ☒ When she saw the large wet patches on the walls, she realised the full magnitude of repairs the house needed.

## **MAGNILOQUENT** Adj.,

## **MAGNILOQUENCE** N.

pompous, boasting

- ☒ The magniloquent contestant sounded too rude.

## **MAGNUM OPUS** N.

a great work especially of literature or learning

- ☒ Paradise Lost is John Milton's magnum opus.

## **MAIM** V.

to disfigure, mutilate

- ☒ Many maimed bodies were recovered from the bogies of the ill-fated train.

## **MALADROIT** Adj.

unskillful, clumsy, gauche, faltering, inept

- ☑ **Syn.** awkward, ungainly
- ☒ Her lack of self-confidence does make her rather maladroit in social situations.

## **MALADY** N.

disease, fault, illness

- ☑ **Syn.** problem, difficulty, trouble, woe
- ☒ Inefficiency is the biggest malady plaguing the Indian industry.

## **MALAISE** N.

uneasiness, a feeling of discomfort

- ☑ **Syn.** depression, disquiet, melancholy
- ★ **Ant.** optimism, sanguinity, buoyancy
- ☒ She wrote about the depression and malaise felt by women trapped in their suburban homes.

## **MALAPROPISM** N.

Verbal blunder, misapplication of words

- without mispronunciation, wrong use of a similar sounding word
- ☒ In the sentence, "The price of food in Japan is gastronomical", the word 'gastronomical' is a malapropism, because it should be 'astronomical.'

## **MALCONTENT** N.

a person who is not satisfied

- ☑ **Syn.** dissident, nonconformist
- ☒ The usual malcontents turned up for the meeting and made trouble.

**MALEDICTION** N.

cursing, a calling down of evil

- \* **Ant.** benediction
- ✗ Malediction, if heart-felt, does come true at times.

**MALEFACTOR** N.

an evil-doer, a criminal

- \* **Ant.** benefactor
- ✗ A malefactor policeman can wreak havoc.

**MALEVOLENT** Adj., **MALEVOLENCE** N.

ill-disposed, wishing evil, sinister, ominous, bad, intense hatred

- \* **Ant.** benevolent
- ✗ The character was not entirely malevolent; the author made a point of showing her good qualities as well.

**MALFEASANCE** N.

mismanagement, malpractice

- ✗ Several cases of malpractice and malfeasance in the financial world are currently being investigated.

**MALFUNCTION**

breakdown, failure

- ✓ **Syn.** collapse, impairment
- ✗ The malfunction of the booster rocket meant that the space shuttle could not be launched on schedule.

**MALICE** N., **MALICIOUS** Adj.

ill-will, spite, antipathy, animosity, acrimony

- ✓ **Syn.** hatred, malevolence, cruelty
- \* **Ant.** compassion, gentleness
- ✗ One of my malicious students has spread canards about me.
- ✗ Killing the neighbour's dog was an act of sheer malice.

**MALIGN** Adj., V., **MALIGNANT** N.

baleful, injurious, malignant, to speak of in an evil way, to defame or slander; having an evil influence

- ✓ **Syn.** slander, criticise, libel
- \* **Ant.** praise, admire, commend
- ✗ Elaborate and specialised treatment is required to prevent the spread of a malignant disease.
- ✗ She has maligned my reputation because she has a prejudiced view.

**MALODOROUS**

foul-smelling

- ✓ **Syn.** fetid, putrid
- \* **Ant.** fragrant, aromatic
- ✗ The malodorous beggar stood no chance of winning anyone's sympathy.

**MALNUTRITION**

undernourishment

- ✓ **Syn.** anorexia, hunger
- ✗ The child's distended stomach and spindly limbs were sure signs of malnutrition.

**MAMMOTH** Adj.

very huge, colossal, goliath, promethean

- ✓ **Syn.** enormous, huge, massive
- \* **Ant.** tiny, minute, little, small, petite
- ✗ Cleaning up the Yamuna is going to be a mammoth task.

**MANDATORY**

necessary, required

- ✓ **Syn.** obligatory, compulsory
- \* **Ant.** optional, voluntary
- ✗ It is mandatory for all company employees to wear blue uniforms while on the job.

**MANIFEST**(adj.) – obvious (v) – demonstrate

- ✓ **Syn.** show, exhibit
- \* **Ant.** hide, mask
- ✗ The fact that she had had plastic surgery was manifest, since she looked 20 years younger than she did the previous week.

**MANIFESTO** N.

a written public declaration

- ✓ **Syn.** policy, proposal, programme
- ✗ Manifestos of all political parties are high-sounding and therefore alluring.

**MANIFOLD**

diverse, varied, comprising many parts

- ✓ **Syn.** multitudinous, multifarious
- \* **Ant.** simple, single
- ✗ The manifold tourist attractions of London make it a great place to visit.

**Mini Revision Test**

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

- |               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. martyr     | a. lying                    |
| 2. maudlin    | b. overly sentimental       |
| 3. mendacious | c. one who dies for a cause |
| 4. mentor     | d. teacher                  |
| 5. mercenary  | e. hired soldier            |

**Answer Key - Mini Revision Test**

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

**MANTLE** N.

a symbol of authority, coat

- ⌘ She unsuccessfully attempted to assume the mantle of presidency.

**MANUAL**(adj.) – operated by hand

(n) – instruction book

- ☑ **Syn.** physical, non-automatic
- ★ **Ant.** automatic, mechanical
- ⌘ When the power lines went down, the secretary dug out his old manual typewriter to finish the letters.

**MANUMIT** V.

emancipate, free from bondage, release from slavery

- ⌘ The authorities in our big temples should come forward and manumit the *devdasis*.

**MAR** – to damage, deface, spoil

- ☑ **Syn.** disfigure, detract
- ★ **Ant.** improve, enhance
- ⌘ The telephone poles marred the natural beauty of the countryside.

**MARAUDER** N., **MARAUD** V.

a plunderer, a raider, seeker of goods, pillager

- ☑ **Syn.** raider, looter, prowler, intruder
- ⌘ The marauders burst into the camp, shooting into houses, hurling stones and smashing car windows.

**MARGARINE** N.

a butter-like substance, fat or lard used in cakes, desserts etc.

- ⌘ I prefer my toast with margarine.

**MARGINAL** – barely sufficient

- ☑ **Syn.** insignificant, minimal
- ★ **Ant.** vast, gross
- ⌘ Because her skills were marginal, she was paid a very low salary.

**MARIJUANA** N.

cannabis, *ganja*, grass

- ⌘ Regular smoking of marijuana can cause short-term memory loss and long-term health problems.

**MARINATE** V., **MARINATION** N.

to soak food in a liquid or paste; a step in food preparation

- ⌘ Marinate the chicken in white wine for a couple of hours before frying.

**MARITIME** Adj.

pertaining to the sea, having a sea coast

- ☑ **Syn.** marine, naval
- ⌘ The blockade of the ports has eliminated maritime trade but some supplies are still getting through over land.

**MARSHAL** V., N.

to lead solicitously, to place in proper rank and position; a high-ranking military official

- ☑ **Syn.** assemble, line up, position
- ★ **Ant.** dismiss, give notice, reject
- ⌘ The fighting in the city followed reports of the rebels marshalling their forces in the countryside.

**MARSUPIAL** Adj.

mammals that carry their young ones in a pouch

- ⌘ Kangaroos are marsupials.

**MARTIAL**

warlike, pertaining to the military

- ☑ **Syn.** combative, soldierly
- ★ **Ant.** civil, civilian
- ⌘ Experts in martial arts know how to defend themselves using their bare hands.

**MARTINET**

strict disciplinarian, one who rigidly follows rules

- ☑ **Syn.** bully, authoritarian
- ★ **Ant.** liberal, lenient
- ⌘ A complete martinet, the official insisted that Pankaj fill out all the forms again even though he was already familiar with his case.

**MARTYR**

person dying for his or her beliefs

- ⌘ Joan of Arc became a famous martyr after she was burned at the stake for her beliefs.

**MASCOT** N.

a talisman, one who brings good luck

- ☑ **Syn.** lucky charm, amulet
- ⌘ There's a competition for designing a mascot for the commonwealth games.

**MASOCHISM** N., **MASOCHIST** N.

pleasure obtained by being tortured by others, gratification in pain

- ⌘ He was so lazy that, for him, the marathon was nothing short of masochism.

**MASQUERADE**

disguise, action that conceals the truth

- ☑ **Syn.** pretence, deception
- ★ **Ant.** honesty, candour
- ⌘ The rogue who was masquerading as a senior police officer managed to dupe several wealthy persons.

**MASTICATE** V.

to chew or grind to a soft material before swallowing

- ☑ **Syn.** munch, crunch, chomp
- ⌘ Ayurvedic drugs need to be masticated.

**MATERIALISM**

preoccupation with material things

- ☑ **Syn.** worldliness
- ✗ Hermits renounce materialism.

**MATRON N., MATRONLY Adj.**

An elderly lady of staid and sober habits

- ✗ The matron of a hostel or a hospital has to be ruthless at times.
- ✗ The woman was too matronly to suit this kind of job.

**MAUDLIN Adj.**

weepy, excessively sentimental

- ☑ **Syn.** mawkish, sappy, slushy, mushy
- ★ **Ant.** unemotional, impassive
- ✗ Every Saturday night, he drank until he was quite maudlin.

**MAUL V.**

to handle roughly, beat, bruise

- ✗ Mauled by her brother-in-law, Seema filed a report of physical abuse at the police station.

**MAUSOLEUM N.**

a large tomb

- ☑ **Syn.** crypt, burial chamber
- ✗ The mausoleum of Akbar is at Sikandra in Agra.

**MAVERICK N.**

a nonconformist, a stray person, unorthodox person

- ☑ **Syn.** eccentric, rebel
- ★ **Ant.** conformist, follower
- ✗ He was considered as something of a maverick in the publishing world.

**MAWKISH**

sickeningly sentimental

- ☑ **Syn.** sickening, nauseating
- ★ **Ant.** cool, impassive
- ✗ The poet hoped to charm his lover with his romantic poem, but she was put off by its mawkish tone.

**MAXIM N.**

proverb, a truth pithily stated, repeated saying of truth

- ☑ **Syn.** adage, proverb
- ✗ A Silicon Valley company is about to test the maxim that smaller is always better for computers.

**MAYHEM N.**

a violent or noisy situation

- ☑ **Syn.** chaos, disorder, turmoil
- ★ **Ant.** arrange, sort, organise, regulate
- ✗ The mayhem at the site of accident was beyond control.

**MEAGRE Adj.**

deficient, scrawny

- ☑ **Syn.** scanty, paltry, trifling
- ★ **Ant.** abundant, plentiful, enough
- ✗ Meagre resources are major obstacles to growth in infrastructure .

**MEANDER V.**

to wander aimlessly, to follow a winding course

- ☑ **Syn.** roam, amble, stroll, rove
- ★ **Ant.** rush, hurry, dash, sprint
- ✗ Narmada meanders through the Vindhya hills and enters Gujarat.
- ✗ We spent the afternoon meandering around the streets of the old town.

**MEDDLER**

person interfering in others' affairs

- ☑ **Syn.** intruder, interloper
- ✗ Mickey is a real meddler, always ready with unsolicited suggestions and offers of help.

**MEDDLESOME Adj.**

very officious, interfering

- ☑ **Syn.** intrusive, nosy
- ✗ We have very meddlesome neighbours, who always want to know what we're doing.

**MEDIEVAL**

relating to the Middle Ages (about 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D.)

- ✗ In medieval times, diseases considered trivial today killed thousands, because medicine was not very advanced.

**Mini Revision Test**

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

- |                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. mercurial     | a. gloomy                    |
| 2. metamorphosis | b. magical change in form    |
| 3. mitigate      | c. soften                    |
| 4. mollify       | d. moderate the effect of    |
| 5. morose        | e. emotionally unpredictable |

**Answer Key - Mini Revision Test**

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

**MEDLEY N.**

a mingled mass, mixture, assortment

- ☑ **Syn.** combination, mix, jumble
- ⌘ There was a medley of stalls in the book fair.
- ⌘ Discotheques play a medley of dance numbers to keep the rhythm going.

**MEEK Adj.**

submissive, patient and long suffering

- ☑ **Syn.** humble, timid, gentle
- ★ **Ant.** assertive, confident, forceful
- ⌘ The law still seems to regard women as meek and submissive and men as strong breadwinners.

**MEGALITH**

huge stone used in prehistoric structures

- ⌘ The archaeologist wondered how the prehistoric tribe had managed to move the gigantic megalith to the top of the hill.

**MEGALOMANIAC N.**

a person having a hunger for greatness and power

- ⌘ The breed of megalomaniacs is increasing nowadays.
- ⌘ The rulers in many countries build the tallest structures just to satisfy their megalomania.

**MELANCHOLY N., MELANCHOLIC Adj.**

sadness, suffering, grief, sorrow, abnormal dejection, excessively low spirit

- ☑ **Syn.** sad, depression, low, down
- ★ **Ant.** cheerful, happy, jovial, positive
- ⌘ Dilip Kumar is an actor who is famous for melancholic roles.

**MELANGE (MAYLANZH) N.**

a mixture of different elements

- ☑ **Syn.** concoction, brew, combination
- ⌘ Her book presents an interesting melange of ideas from different philosophies.

**MELLIFLUOUS Adj.**

sweetly or smoothly flowing, very smooth

- ☑ **Syn.** smooth, honeyed
- ★ **Ant.** harsh, cruel, callous
- ⌘ The mellifluous tunes of Beatles songs made them living pop legends.

**MELLOW Adj., V.**

soft and ripe, well matured, melodic

- ☑ **Syn.** smooth, rich, full, soft
- ★ **Ant.** harsh, cruel, unsympathetic
- ⌘ Age mellows the wildest of youth.

**MELODRAMATIC Adj., MELODRAMA N.**

exaggerated, histrionic, overdone, sensational

- ⌘ If all Hindi films are not melodramatic, what are they ?
- ⌘ We Indians love melodrama, be it TV serials or films.

**MELODY**

pleasing musical harmony, related to music

- ☑ **Syn.** tunefulness, lyricism
- ⌘ The hit pop song had the same basic melody of a favourite old song.

**MENACE N.**

threat, danger, nuisance

- ☑ **Syn.** danger, hazard, peril
- ⌘ Teenage drivers are a traffic menace.

**MERCENARY (adj.)**

motivated only by greed, money-minded

(n) – hired soldier

- ☑ **Syn.** rapacious, materialistic
- ★ **Ant.** charitable, philanthropic
- ⌘ Many celebrated "explorers" were actually mercenary plunderers.

**MERCURIAL**

quick, shrewd, and unpredictable

- ☑ **Syn.** volatile, unpredictable
- ★ **Ant.** stable, constant
- ⌘ Her mercurial temper made it difficult for her team to arrive at a rational decision.

**MERIDIAN**

imaginary circle passing through the two poles of the Earth

- ⌘ The explorer attempted to follow the meridian from the North Pole to the South Pole, but his ship failed to negotiate the icebergs.

**MERITORIOUS**

deserving reward or praise

- ☑ **Syn.** praiseworthy, commendable
- ★ **Ant.** worthless, discreditable
- ⌘ The student's meritorious performance won him a scholarship.

**MENDACITY N., MENDACIOUS Adj.**

untruthfulness, lying, deceiving, falsity

- ☑ **Syn.** dishonesty, deceit, lies, falsehood
- ⌘ Mendacity is the hallmark of most Indian politicians.
- ⌘ The mendacious saint was in for a public thrashing now that he was exposed.

**MENDICANT N., MENDICANCY N.**

a beggar

- ⌘ Mendicancy seems to be a thriving business in India.

**MENIAL Adj., N.**

work of a servile or humiliating nature, blue-collar work

- ☑ **Syn.** unskilled, boring, tedious, basic
- ★ **Ant.** skilled, capable, expert, able
- ⌘ The lot of the menials will never improve in the world.
- ⌘ Many nurses find themselves given menial tasks, such as making beds and washing patients, which make little use of their skills.

**MENTOR**

experienced teacher and wise adviser

- ☑ **Syn.** trainer, counsellor
- ★ **Ant.** disciple, student
- ✗ Ruchi asked her mentor for help to choose the right college.

**MERETRICIOUS** Adj.

flashy, gaudy, glamorous in a cheap and showy way, rooted in bigotry and hypocritical views

- ✗ He claims that a lot of journalism is meretricious and superficial.

**METAPHOR**

figure of speech comparing two different things

- ☑ **Syn.** figurative expression, analogy
- ✗ The metaphor "a sea of troubles" suggests a lot of troubles by comparing their number to the vastness of the sea.

**MESMERISE** V.

hypnotise, captivate, engross, charm

- ☑ **Syn.** enthrall, entrance
- ★ **Ant.** bore, tire, irk, bore stiff
- ✗ The audience was completely mesmerised by her singing.

**METAMORPHOSIS** N.

a sudden or drastic change in characteristics, unexplainable but usually very noticeable change of form or character

- ✗ The collapse of communism caused the metamorphosis of the erstwhile USSR.

**METE** V.

to allot, give out

- ✗ Corrupt and criminal politicians should be meted out proper punishment.

**METEORIC** Adj.

breakneck, explosive, spectacular, speedy

- ☑ **Syn.** dramatic, sudden, swift, rapid
- ★ **Ant.** gradual, slow, regular, measured
- ✗ Anyone who has a meteoric rise can fall to the lowest depth in life.

**METICULOUS** Adj.

very careful about minute details, showing extreme care in all respects

- ☑ **Syn.** scrupulous, thorough, fussy
- ★ **Ant.** careless, slapdash, casual, sloppy
- ✗ A copy editor must correct written materials meticulously so that the published material is as perfect as possible.

**METTLE**

quality of character, courage, endurance

- ☑ **Syn.** fortitude, tenacity
- ★ **Ant.** cowardice, irresolution
- ✗ The pilot showed his mettle, landing the helicopter very close to the wounded soldiers, despite the heavy winds.

**MIASMA** N., **MIASMATIC** Adj.

swamp gas, heavy, vaporous atmosphere, often emanating from decaying matter

- ✗ A miasma of pollution hung in the air over the city.

**MICROBE**

a microorganism like bacterium, particularly the kind that causes disease

- ✗ The discovery that microbes caused certain diseases was a major medical breakthrough.

**MIGRATORY**

wandering from place to place with the seasons

- ☑ **Syn.** translocation, migrating
- ✗ Bird watchers started gathering near the lake, in anticipation of the arrival of the migratory birds.

**MILIEU** N.

the surroundings or atmosphere

- ☑ **Syn.** setting, environment, locale
- ✗ The European milieu is a shock to the Asians at first.

**MINATORY** Adj.

having a menacing quality, threatening

- ✗ Munna threatened to kill the Sharma family and his minatory gaze said it all.

**MINCE** V.

to cut into tiny sections, to talk or walk in an affected or overly dainty manner, to hold back words discreetly

- ☑ **Syn.** cut up, chop up, hash
- ✗ Do not mince words with me – tell me what you're thinking.
- ✗ Mince two pounds of chicken finely for preparing *kebabs*.

**MINUSCULE** – very small

- ☑ **Syn.** diminutive, tiny
- ★ **Ant.** vast, huge
- ✗ Dave needed a magnifying glass to read the minuscule print on the lease agreement.

**MIRE** V., N.

entangle, stick in swampy ground, deep mud, also unpleasant situation

- ☑ **Syn.** swamp, marsh, sludge, slush
- ✗ Their expedition was hampered temporarily because the vehicles of their caravan were mired in the mud.

**MIRTH** N.

gladness or gaiety accompanied with laughter

- ☑ **Syn.** glee, hilarity
- ★ **Ant.** dejection, gloom
- ✗ An atmosphere of mirth prevailed in the freshers' party at Hindu college.

**MISANTHROPE** N., **MISANTHROPIC** Adj.

a person who hates his fellow human beings

- ✗ Hitler was often called a misanthrope.
- ✗ His tendency to avoid any company is almost misanthropic.

**MISAPPREHEND**

to misunderstand, misconstrue

- ☑ **Syn.** confuse, misjudge
- ⌘ The policeman misapprehended the situation and arrested Mohan, although Prahlad was the guilty one.

**MISCONSTRUE V.**

to misinterpret, misjudge, misrepresent

- ☑ **Syn.** misunderstand, misread
- ★ **Ant.** understand, appreciate, know
- ⌘ Their caution was misconstrued as cowardice.

**MISCREANT N.**

an evildoer

- ☑ **Syn.** scoundrel, malefactor
- ⌘ Police apprehended the miscreants on the eve of *holi*.

**MISDEMEANOUR N.**

bad conduct, a misdeed, violation, crime, offense

- ⌘ The government apologised for police misdemeanour.

**MISERLINESS**

extreme stinginess

- ☑ **Syn.** thrift, penuriousness
- ★ **Ant.** generosity, liberality
- ⌘ Although Mohandas was a rich man, he was too much of a miser to help others.

**MISGIVINGS N.**

doubts

- ☑ **Syn.** qualms, worries, fears
- ⌘ Misgivings should be done away with because they break up families and spoil lives.

**MISHAP**

accident, misfortune

- ☑ **Syn.** setback, adversity
- ★ **Ant.** fortune, fortuity
- ⌘ In an unfortunate mishap, the actress broke her arm and could not perform that night as planned.

**MISNOMER**

an incorrect name or designation

- ⌘ Some feel that "peacemaker" is a misnomer for a nuclear missile.

**MISOGAMIST N., MISOGAMY N.**

a person hating marriage

- ⌘ G.B. Shaw was often accused of being a misogynist.
- ⌘ Failed marriages are creating misogamy in today's youth.

**MISOGYNIST N., MISOGYNY N.**

a person hating women

- ⌘ The club's refusal to allow women to become members is sheer misogyny.

**MITIGATE**

to soften, or make milder

- ☑ **Syn.** palliate, appease
- ★ **Ant.** aggravate, intensify
- ⌘ The judge may mitigate the sentence if he is convinced that the crime was committed in self-defence.

**MNEMONIC Adj.**

pertaining to memory

- ⌘ Things, phone numbers, words etc. can be remembered with mnemonic tricks.

**MOCK**

to deride, ridicule

- ☑ **Syn.** jeer at, scorn
- ★ **Ant.** inspire, encourage
- ⌘ Charles suspected that Toni was mocking him behind his back, and decided to be on his guard with her.

**MODERATE**

to make less excessive, restrain, regulate

- ☑ **Syn.** curb, diminish
- ★ **Ant.** aggravate, increase
- ⌘ The engineer moderated the flow of electricity to the house after its fuses blew repeatedly.

**MODICUM N.**

a very small amount

- ☑ **Syn.** little, bit, degree
- ⌘ Given time, modicum of rancour can blow up into full-fledged vendetta.

**MODUS OPERANDI N.**

the manner of operating or working

- ⌘ The modus operandi of the crime suggested a mafia hand.

**MOGHUL N.**

powerful person who has great wealth and power

- ☑ **Syn.** tycoon, industrialist, magnate
- ⌘ Subhash Chandra, already a TV mogul is now thinking of venturing into newspapers.

**MOLLIFY**

to calm or make less severe

- ☑ **Syn.** appease, allay
- ★ **Ant.** enrage, inflame
- ⌘ Their argument was so intense that it was difficult to believe any compromise could mollify them.

**MOLLYCODDLE V.**

to pamper

- ⌘ She mollycoddled the irate child by buying him a soft toy.

**MOMENTOUS Adj.**

extremely important, crucial, decisive

- ☑ **Syn.** important, significant, crucial
- ⌘ Whether or not to move overseas was a momentous decision for the family.

**MONASTIC**

extremely plain or secluded, as in a monastery

- ☑ **Syn.** ascetic, austere
- ★ **Ant.** luxurious, indulgent
- ✗ The philosopher retired to his monastic lodgings to contemplate life, away from any worldly distraction.

**MONOCHROMATIC**

having one colour

- ✗ The multicoloured butterfly really stood out in the monochromatic foliage of the clearing.

**MONOGAMY**

custom of marriage to one person at a time

- ☑ **Syn.** wedding, matrimony
- ★ **Ant.** polygamy
- ✗ Monogamy is the accepted norm in Indian culture, though some members of certain religions take more than one wife.

**MONOLITHIC** Adj., **MONOLITH** N.

solidly uniform, unyielding; a massive structure

- ✗ Many PSUs in our country are monolithic in structure.

**MONOLOGUE**

dramatic speech performed by one actor

- ☑ **Syn.** soliloquy, spiel
- ★ **Ant.** dialogue, conversation
- ✗ The actor skilfully varied the tone and pace of his 40-minute monologue to make it interesting.

**MONUMENTAL** Adj.

commemorative, memorial, columnar

- ☑ **Syn.** colossal, epic, huge, vast
- ★ **Ant.** small, little, minute, tiny, petite
- ✗ Monumental strides in the field of electronics have made the little things in life a lot more convenient.

**MORATORIUM** N.

legal delay of payment, stopping of an activity for a period

- ☑ **Syn.** suspension, freeze, halt, pause
- ✗ A general moratorium on repayment of agricultural loans provides farmers some room to try and overcome their problems.

**MORBID** Adj.

induced by disease, pessimistic, brooding, grisly, macabre

- ☑ **Syn.** morose, gloomy, dark, moody
- ★ **Ant.** cheerful, happy, cheery, joyful
- ✗ The morbid declaration of doomsday or the end of the world can frighten some people.

**MORDANT** Adj.

biting, sarcastic, stinging, cutting to the heart of the matter, incisive

- ☑ **Syn.** caustic, acerbic, scathing
- ★ **Ant.** gentle, mild, kind, calm
- ✗ Celebrities fear the mordant coverage of their private life by the press.

**MORGUE** N.

a place where dead bodies are kept for identification

- ☑ **Syn.** motherly, caring, tender
- ✗ To identify the dead in the morgue is in itself a mortifying act.

**MORIBUND** Adj.

about to die, in a dying state

- ☑ **Syn.** declining, waning, past it
- ★ **Ant.** thriving, flourishing, booming
- ✗ The old Indian social structure appears to be in a moribund state.

**MORON** N.

a feeble-minded person

- ✗ Some moron smashed into the back of my car yesterday.

**MOROSE**

gloomy, sullen or surly

- ☑ **Syn.** taciturn, sulky
- ★ **Ant.** cheerful, communicative
- ✗ After he was rejected by the university of his choice, Amit was morose for weeks.

**MORTIFY** V.

to humiliate, to deaden, subdue, to destroy

- ☑ **Syn.** degrade, crush, shame
- ✗ She remembered how mortified she'd been as a child, having to wear her sister's old dress to school.

**MOTIF** N.

a theme, design, issue, argument

- ☑ **Syn.** pattern, image, decoration
- ✗ The typical motifs in ancient Indian palaces is due to the assimilation of Mughal architecture.
- ✗ We chose some curtains with a floral motif.

**MOTLEY** Adj.

heterogeneous, assorted, diverse, of different, oddly grouped parts

- ☑ **Syn.** assorted, diverse, varied
- ✗ The museum has been converted into offices and is now inhabited by a motley assortment of architects, designers and artists.

**MOTTLED** Adj.

spotted

- ☑ **Syn.** dappled, spotty
- ✗ The mottled deer is so beautiful that it's worth watching.

**MOULT**

to shed hair, skin, or an outer layer periodically

- ✗ The snake moulted its skin and left it behind in a crumpled mass.

**MOUND** N.

a hillock, a heap

- ☑ **Syn.** heap, pile, stack, mass, load
- ✗ Archaeologists are investigating whether the small hill is really a burial mound

**MULCT** V., N.

to defraud or cheat; a fine, a penalty

- ⌘ The new ruler mulcted the citizens in the name of a new city development fund.

**MULTIFACETED**

having many parts, many sided

- ⌘ The multifaceted actor played five different roles in a single film, executing each to perfection.

**MULTIFARIOUS**

diverse

- ☑ **Syn.** varied, manifold
- ★ **Ant.** homogeneous, uniform
- ⌘ India is famous for its multifarious culture and cuisine.

**MUNDANE** Adj.

commonplace, everyday, earthly as opposed to heavenly, worldly, ordinary or run-of-the-mill, menial

- ☑ **Syn.** dull, routine
- ★ **Ant.** foreign, from abroad, exotic
- ⌘ Mundane matters such as eating and drinking do not excite her any longer.

**MUNIFICENCE** N., **MUNIFICENT** Adj.

magnificent liberality in giving, very liberal, generous in giving, lavish

- ☑ **Syn.** largesse, benevolence
- ⌘ Sir Swaraj Paul is known for his munificence.

**MUTABLE** Adj., **MUTATION** N.

variable, subject to change

- ☑ **Syn.** changeable, changing
- ★ **Ant.** fixed, permanent, unchanging
- ⌘ Mutable government policies keep investors at bay.
- ⌘ In today's changing environment, a company has to maintain a mutable stand on policy matters.

**MUTILATE** V., **MUTILATION** N.

cripple, damage, disfigure

- ☑ **Syn.** maim, injure, hurt, harm
- ⌘ Repeated amendments have mutilated the constitution.

**MUTINY** N., **MUTINOUS** Adj.

defiance, disobedience, insurrection, rebellion

- ☑ **Syn.** revolt, sedition, uprising
- ⌘ The mutinous crew had endangered the passengers on the plane.
- ⌘ The disillusionment has deepened to open mutiny in the ranks of the soldiers.

**MUZZLE** V., N.

to silence; mouth, snout

- ☑ **Syn.** silence, gag, shut up, quiet, stifle
- ⌘ A good administrator never muzzles dissent.

**MYOPIC** Adj.

nearsighted, shortsighted

- ☑ **Syn.** bigoted, intolerant
- ★ **Ant.** broadminded, tolerant
- ⌘ Their myopic refusal to act now will undoubtedly cause problems in the future.

**MYRIAD** Adj.

numberless

- ☑ **Syn.** countless, innumerable, many
- ★ **Ant.** few, little, the minority
- ⌘ They offered no solution for all our myriad problems.

**Gastronomy**

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

<b>BRAISE</b>	:	to cook first by searing, then simmering in a small amount of liquid
<b>BREW</b>	:	make beer, tea or coffee by soaking formation or boiling
<b>COLANDER</b>	:	a perforated basket used to strain water-filled foods
<b>CONFECTIONERY</b>	:	any sweet food comprised primarily of sugar
<b>DECANTER</b>	:	narrow-necked glass container used to hold and serve wine
<b>GASTRONOMY</b>	:	the science of preparing and serving food
<b>PASTEURIZE</b>	:	to sterilize by raising and lowering temperature to prevent fermentation and growth of bacteria
<b>SAUTE</b>	:	fry briefly over high heat
<b>TRUSS</b>	:	to secure (hold together) with skewers or twine before cooking
<b>ZEST</b>	:	the outside rind of any citrus fruit which contains the essential oils used for flavoring