

“V”

VACILLATE V.

to waver, to hesitate; to be uncertain what to do or to change frequently between two opinions

- ☑ **Syn.** hesitate, dither, fluctuate
- ★ **Ant.** decide, choose, determine, elect
- ✎ The vacillating attitude of the government on PSU privatisation will help no one.

VACUOUS Adj.

with no meaning, silly, vacant, not expressing or showing intelligent thought or purpose

- ☑ **Syn.** empty-headed, stupid, inane
- ★ **Ant.** bright, brilliant, intense, dazzling
- ✎ Family planning and poverty reduction slogans are becoming vacuous in our country.

VAGARY N.

oddity, whim, impulse, caprice

- ✎ Vagaries of the monsoon still determine India's fate.

VAGRANT Adj.

wandering, gypsy, nomadic, a person who is poor and does not have a home or job,

- ☑ **Syn.** nomadic, itinerant, roaming
- ✎ Vagrants and drunks hang around the bars at the end of the street.

VAINGLORIOUS Adj.

boastful; excessively conceited

- ✎ The actress turned out to be vainglorious and arrogant in attitude.

VALIDATE

to authorise, certify, confirm

- ☑ **Syn.** substantiate, authenticate
- ★ **Ant.** invalidate, reject
- ✎ The employee validated my guest pass so that I could enter the park for free.

VALOUR N.

bravery

- ✎ Rani Lakshmi Bai's valour in the battle against the British has gone down in history.

VAMPIRE N.

ghostly being that sucks the blood of living beings

- ☑ **Syn.** leech, parasite, tick, mosquito
- ✎ The most famous vampire is Count Dracula of Transylvania in the stories of Bram Stoker.

VANGUARD N.

forerunners; advance forces, esp. an army or figuratively, who are making changes or developments

- ☑ **Syn.** frontline, precursor, forerunner
- ✎ Our environment group has always been in the vanguard of all movements related to environment and ecology.

VANITY N.

pride, disdain, narcissism,

- ☑ **Syn.** conceit, arrogance, egotism, airs
- ★ **Ant.** humility, humbleness, meekness
- ✎ The entire cosmetic industry survives because of vanity.

VANQUISH

to conquer, defeat

- ☑ **Syn.** beat, annihilate
- ★ **Ant.** create, build
- ✎ Napoleon was vanquished by the English at the Battle of Waterloo.

VAPID Adj.

dull, absentminded, silly, boring; having no imagination or excitement

- ☑ **Syn.** insipid, lifeless, weak, watery, flat
- ★ **Ant.** lively, sparkling, vivacious
- ✎ Audiences will never listen to vapid presentations or talks.

VARIEGATED Adj. , VARIEGATION Adj.

Many-coloured; a pattern of different colours, especially yellow, white or red, on the leaves of a plant

- ☑ **Syn.** spotted, dappled, flecked
- ★ **Ant.** uniform, identical, even, regular
- ✎ The gypsies wear variegated clothes.

VAUNTED Adj.

boasted; bragged; highly publicised

- ☑ **Syn.** flaunt, brag, extol
- ✎ The much-vaunted movie failed to get even a decent first week collection.

VEER V.

change in direction

- ☑ **Syn.** turn, swerve, change direction
- ✎ Manic depressives may veer back and forth between periods of manic behaviour and normality.

VEGETATE V.

live in a monotonous way, to live in a way that lacks physical and mental activity

- ☑ **Syn.** sit around, stagnate, loaf, kill time
- ✎ A report has shown that children spend too much time vegetating in front of the TV when they come home from school.

VEHEMENCE N. , VEHEMENT N.

forceful way; fierce, furious

- ☑ **Syn.** intensity, fervour, violence
- ★ **Ant.** indifference, unresponsiveness, apathy, unconcern
- ✎ The vehemence of the Narmada Bachao Andolan took the government by surprise.

VEHEMENTLY

strongly, urgently

- ☑ **Syn.** forcefully, frantically
- ★ **Ant.** in a laid-back manner, impassively
- ⌘ Ritika vehemently denied the accusation that she had cheated in the test.

VENAL Adj.

who will take a bribe, fraudulent, evil

- ⌘ The whole of the government machinery has apparently become venal.

VENDETTA N.

private quarrel between families

- ☑ **Syn.** quarrel, dispute, hostilities
- ⌘ He saw himself as the victim of a personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies.

VENEER N.

thin layer, cover; a thin layer of decorative wood or plastic used to cover a cheaper material

- ☑ **Syn.** facing, finish, surface, layer
- ⌘ Lamination gave it a fine veneer.
- ⌘ She managed to hide her corrupt dealings under a veneer of respectability.

VENERABLE Adj. **VENERATE** V.

deserving high respect (due to age or wisdom)

- ☑ **Syn.** renowned, honoured, eminent
- ★ **Ant.** disreputable, dishonourable
- ⌘ He was a venerable man, much sought after by various companies.

VENERATION

adoration, honour

- ☑ **Syn.** reverence, respect
- ★ **Ant.** insult, disdain
- ⌘ In traditional Indian society, the young treat their elders with veneration.

VENIAL Adj.

forgivable, trivial, not serious and therefore easily forgivable

- ⌘ The orthodoxy, narrow-mindedness and rigidity of the illiterates are venial but what about the literates?

VENOM N.

poison, toxin, bane, acrimony, ill will, malice; a poisonous liquid which some snakes, insects, etc. produce when biting or stinging

- ☑ **Syn.** poison, toxin, bane, malice, spite
- ★ **Ant.** antidote, cure, remedy, solution
- ⌘ A vaccine has been created for people who are allergic to bee stings, which uses the venom extracted from bees.

VENT N.

small opening, outlet; a small opening which allows air, smoke or gas to enter or escape from an enclosed space

- ☑ **Syn.** expel, voice, emit, utter, declare
- ★ **Ant.** repress, stifle, restrain, constrain
- ⌘ The closed vent in the cellar caused humidity.

VERACIOUS Adj. **VERACITY** N.

truthful, legitimate, factual; truthfulness

- ☑ **Syn.** trustworthy
- ★ **Ant.** deceitful, dishonest, lying
- ⌘ She proposed his name for the promotion because of his veracity.

VERBATIM Adj.

word for word, using exactly the same words as were originally used

- ☑ **Syn.** precisely, literally, accurately
- ★ **Ant.** approximately, around, nearly
- ⌘ He kept verbatim transcripts of discussions with his friends so he could use them in his next novel.

VERBIAGE N.

language which is very complicated and contains a lot of unnecessary words

- ⌘ His explanation was wrapped up in so much technical verbiage that I simply couldn't understand it.

VERBOSE Adj.

using more words than necessary

- ☑ **Syn.** wordy, effusive, loquacious
- ★ **Ant.** taciturn, reticent, reserved
- ⌘ He was notorious for being a verbose and rather tedious after-dinner speaker.

VERDANT

green with vegetation, inexperienced

- ☑ **Syn.** grassy, flourishing
- ★ **Ant.** experienced, barren
- ⌘ He wandered deep into the verdant woods in search of mushrooms and edible flora.

VERIFIED

proven true

- ☑ **Syn.** substantiated, confirmed
- ★ **Ant.** refuted, denied
- ⌘ Before you publish that information, please have it verified by the right authority.

VERISIMILITUDE N. **VERISIMILAR** Adj.

appearance of being true, likelihood

- ⌘ She has included photographs and reproductions of letters in the book to lend verisimilitude to her story-telling.

VERITABLE Adj. **VERITY** N.

actual; not false or imaginary

- ⌘ On stage, she is a veritable actress, dazzling the audience with her performance.

VERMIN

small creatures offensive to humans, worthless person

- ☑ **Syn.** obnoxious person, the hoi polloi
- ⌘ Neeti called the exterminator to fumigate her vermin-infested apartment.

VERNACULAR N., Adj.

living language, natural style; the form of a language that a regional group of speakers use naturally

☑ **Syn.** dialect, language, lingo, argot

✗ His lively vernacular style goes down well with the younger viewers.

VERNAL

related to spring

* **Ant.** autumnal

✗ Bindu basked in the balmy vernal breeze, happy that winter was at last coming to an end.

VERSATILE

adaptable, all-purpose

☑ **Syn.** flexible, multifaceted

* **Ant.** rigid, limited

✗ This versatile little gadget can be used to dice vegetables, open cans, and even whip cream!

VERVE N.

enthusiasm, liveliness, great energy

☑ **Syn.** vitality, energy, vigour, dash, life

* **Ant.** lethargy, weariness, tiredness

✗ Her lectures were full of verve and wit which the students enjoyed immensely.

VESTIGE N.

trace, remains, shadow; a still existing small part or amount of something larger

☑ **Syn.** mark, indication, hint, evidence

✗ There is no vestige of hope that the missing children will be found alive.

VETO V. to reject formally N. – rejection, dismissal

☑ **Syn.** deny, turn down

* **Ant.** approval, authorisation

✗ Fearful that the new law would be used to reduce her powers, the president vetoed it.

VEX N.

annoy; distress

☑ **Syn.** irritate, enrage, nettle

* **Ant.** placate, mollify, appease

✗ You will vex the teacher if you keep talking in the class.

VIALE

workable, able to succeed or grow

☑ **Syn.** feasible, possible

* **Ant.** impracticable, improbable

✗ I don't think your plan to increase sales by sending free samples to every household is viable.

VICARIOUS Adj.

indirectly felt; experienced by watching, listening to or reading about the activities of other people.

☑ **Syn.** explicit, shocking, vivid, juicy

* **Ant.** bland, insipid, weak, tasteless

✗ They get a vicarious thrill from watching motor racing.

VICIOUS Adj.

evil, wild, violent, fierce, having or showing an intention or desire to hurt very badly

☑ **Syn.** ferocious, inhuman, sadistic

* **Ant.** cheerful, friendly, kind, happy

✗ A life of vice has a vicious end.

VICISSITUDE N.

variation in luck, change of fortune

✗ Vicissitude turns some to dust and others to men of determination.

VIE V.

contend; compete

☑ **Syn.** contest, fight, grapple

✗ It is amusing to watch the antics of some stars as they vie for attention.

VIGILANT

attentive, watchful

☑ **Syn.** observant, alert

* **Ant.** negligent, inattentive

✗ Air traffic controllers must be vigilant in order to ensure that planes do not collide with one another.

VIGNETTE N.

picture; short literary sketch

✗ The star of yesteryears still looked stunning in her latest vignette.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. verbose | a. capable of living |
| 2. vernacular | b. annoy |
| 3. vestige | c. last trace |
| 4. vex | d. wordy |
| 5. viable | e. slang |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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

VILE Adj.

extremely unpleasant, wicked, wretched, evil

☑ **Syn.** depraved, base, degraded, foul

★ **Ant.** high quality, superior, excellent

☞ He is a man of vile intentions.

VILIFY V. **VILIFICATION** N.

slander; to say or write unpleasant things about (someone or something)

☑ **Syn.** speak ill of, malign, denigrate

★ **Ant.** compliment, praise, tribute

☞ During elections, the candidates are busy vilifying each other in order to grab votes.

VIM

energy, enthusiasm

☑ **Syn.** verve, vigour

★ **Ant.** inability, incapacity

☞ The sprightly old woman, still full of vim and vigour, walked four miles every day.

VINDICATE V.

to justify, maintain, warrant, argue, to show to be free from guilt or blame

☑ **Syn.** claim, exonerate, defend, prove

☞ The CEO's faith in his manager was vindicated after the stupendous success of the new marketing plan.

VINDICATION

clearance from blame or suspicion, proof of truth

☑ **Syn.** amnesty, absolution

★ **Ant.** conviction, condemnation

☞ Many years after he was unjustly accused of treason, the new evidence provided ample vindication of his innocence.

VINDICTIVE Adj.

wanting to take revenge, spiteful, revengeful,

☑ **Syn.** malicious, bitter, mean

★ **Ant.** forgiving, compassionate, kind

☞ In the film 'Cape Fear,' a lawyer's family is threatened by a vindictive former prisoner.

VINTAGE N.

old, antique; group of things or people active during the same particular period; the wine made in a particular year

☑ **Syn.** period, age, epoch, traditional

☞ He possesses both vintage cars and vintage wine.

VIRILE Adj. , **VIRILITY** Adj.

manly, masculine, stalwart; strength (of a man, esp. a young man)

☞ In this role, Shahrukh is a virile tycoon bent on having his way.

VIRTUOSO N.

person skilled in an art, expert, master

☑ **Syn.** genius, performer, maestro

☞ Famous mainly for his wonderful voice, Kishore Kumar was also a virtuoso performer on screen and on stage.

VIRULENCE N. **VIRULENT** Adj.

great strength; extremely poisonous

☞ As a virulent critic of the ruling party, he has made himself very unpopular in certain circles.

VISAGE N.

appearance, expression, aspect, the face

☑ **Syn.** features, facade

☞ His stern visage concealed a soft and loving heart.

VISCERAL Adj.

felt in one's inner organs; based on deep feeling and emotional reactions rather than on reason or thought

☑ **Syn.** intuitive, animal, primeval, gut

★ **Ant.** factual, accurate, realistic

☞ The infection seems to be visceral.

VISCOUS

thick, syrupy, and sticky

☑ **Syn.** viscid, gluey

★ **Ant.** watery, free-flowing

☞ The viscous sap trickled slowly down the trunk of the tree.

VITIATE V.

spoil the effect of; make inoperative

Our economic growth has been vitiated by the rise in population.

VITREOUS Adj.

like glass

☞ The bizarre stone is vitreous in structure.

VITRIOLIC Adj.

very violent, rude, caustic

☑ **Syn.** spiteful, hurtful, acerbic, bitter

★ **Ant.** kind, type, style, sort, class

☞ He launched a vitriolic attack on the prime minister, accusing him of shielding corrupt friends.

VITUPERATE

to abuse verbally

☑ **Syn.** berate, condemn

★ **Ant.** praise, laud

☞ The crabby old man vituperated his wife for forgetting to buy his favourite breakfast cereal.

VITUPERATION N. **VITUPERATIVE** Adj.

abuse, insulting words; abusive, scolding

☞ When his proposal was rejected by the committee, he became more vituperative.

VIVACIOUS Adj.

lively, scintillating, attractively full of energy and enthusiasm

☑ **Syn.** cheerful, spirited, chirpy

★ **Ant.** relaxed, leisurely, lazy, lethargic

☞ Apart from being beautiful and savvy, an aspirant to beauty contests should be vivacious.

VIVID Adj.

impressive, expressive, very brightly coloured; (of descriptions, memories, etc.) producing very clear, powerful and detailed images in the mind

☑ **Syn.** bright, glowing, brilliant

★ **Ant.** boring, dark, stupid, tedious

✗ The leader of the Antarctica expedition gave vivid descriptions of the trip.

VIXEN N.

female fox, ill-tempered woman

✗ It is surprising that such a knowledgeable, sober, intelligent woman in the office can turn into a vixen at home.

VOCIFEROUS Adj.

clamorous, noisy, repeatedly expressing opinions and complaints in speech

☑ **Syn.** voluble, enthusiastic, noisy

★ **Ant.** quiet, calm, silence, hush, peace

✗ Local activist groups have become increasingly vociferous as the volume of traffic passing through the village has grown.

VOGUE N.

fashion, popularity, craze

☑ **Syn.** trend, rage, mode, fad, style

✗ Body piercing is out of vogue these days.

VOID

emptiness, vacuum

☑ **Syn.** empty space, blankness

★ **Ant.** filled up, stuffed

✗ The astronauts released their shuttle's ancillary rockets and watched them drift off into the void.

VOLITION N.

wish, initiative, ambition, the power to make your own decisions

☑ **Syn.** decision, desire, preference

★ **Ant.** compulsion, bullying, cruelty

✗ The minister wished it to be known that he had left the cabinet of his own volition.

VOLLEY

flight of missiles, round of gunshots

☑ **Syn.** torrent, barrage

✗ The troops fired a volley at the enemy, but they could not be sure how many of the bullets found their targets.

VOLUBLE N.

who speaks easily with a lot of words

☑ **Syn.** fluent, articulate, verbose

✗ Only voluble comperes can be successful in TV talk shows .

VOLUMINOUS

large, having great volume

☑ **Syn.** sizeable, immense

★ **Ant.** tiny, tight-fitting

✗ The bride's voluminous dress trailed several yards behind her as she walked down the aisle.

VORACIOUS Adj.

greedy, gluttonous, hungry

☑ **Syn.** avid, big, hungry, ravenous

✗ Usually, voracious readers find it easy to clear CAT.

VORTEX N.

whirlwind, whirlpool, centre of turbulence, predicament into which one is inexorably plunged

☑ **Syn.** eddy, whirlpool, current

✗ The vortex of a tornado tends to be very calm.

VULNERABLE Adj.

weak, unprotected; physically, emotionally or mentally hurt easily; influenced or attacked

☑ **Syn.** susceptible, weak, defenseless

★ **Ant.** impervious, impermeable, solid

✗ The troops were in a vulnerable position, completely exposed to attack from the air.

VYING Adj.

rival, competing, opposing

✗ MNCs are vying for the mega projects in our country.

Mini Revision Test

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

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. vicarious | a. upheaval |
| 2. vicissitude | b. clear from suspicion |
| 3. vilify | c. seeking revenge |
| 4. vindicate | d. defame |
| 5. vindictive | e. experienced through another |

Answer Key - Mini Revision Test

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