

# “B”

## **BABBLE** V., N.

to talk foolishly or inarticulately, to murmur continuously, chatter idly

- ☑ **Syn.** blurb, gossip, prattle
- ☒ Stop babbling while the lecture is going on!
- ☒ You need to talk clearly and forcefully when you are trying to convince somebody, not just babble.

## **BACCHANAL** N. **BACCHANALIAN** Adj.

a wild gathering involving excessive drinking and promiscuity, an orgiastic revelry

- ☒ Late night party goers become bacchanals and indulge in acts that they later regret.

## **BACON** N.

salted and dried flesh of pig

- ☒ John prefers bacon and bread for his breakfast.

## **BADINAGE** N.

light playful talk, banter

- ☒ Avoid badinage if you want to be accepted as serious speaker.

## **BAFFLING** V., Adj., **BAFFLE** N.

to frustrate, confound, confuse, bewilder, impede; a device for controlling the flow of gas, liquid or sound through an opening

- ☑ **Syn.** thwart, perplex, stymie
- \* **Ant.** aid, contribute, assist
- ☒ He was completely baffled by the question.
- ☒ Nidhi's baffling behaviour at her birthday party is beyond my comprehension.

## **BAIL** V. (usually used with *out*)

to clear water from by dipping and throwing out; to help escape from a predicament

- ☑ **Syn.** payment, financial guarantee
- ☒ After the main batsmen failed, the team was once again bailed out by the bowlers.
- ☒ The IMF tries to bail out many third world economies but its role is controversial.

## **BAILIWICK** N.

distinct area, a person's normal territory or jurisdiction

- ☑ **Syn.** field, domain, dominion, terrain
- ☒ The MP had no decision making power outside of her bailiwick.

## **BAIT** N., V.

any temptation or allurements as part of a trap; to persecute or exasperate with unjust, malicious or persistent attacks

- ☑ **Syn.** decoy, enticement, lure, tease
- ☒ The tiger came for the bait finally.
- ☒ The dancers in the club baited many young professionals.

## **BALEFUL**

harmful, with evil intentions

- ☑ **Syn.** menacing, malevolent
- \* **Ant.** benevolent, friendly
- ☒ The sullen teenager gave his nagging mother a baleful look.

## **BALLAD** N.

a song accompanying a dance, a narrative composition in verse to suit the rhythm of a dance

- ☒ The valour of Laxmibai is beautifully described in the ballads of Bundelkhand.

## **BALM**

medicinal ointment, lotion, something that heals

- ☑ **Syn.** pomade, emollient
- \* **Ant.** astringent, irritant
- ☒ The balm of friendship can work wonders at times of great sorrow.

## **BALLISTICS** N. **BALLISTIC** Adj.

science of motion of missiles, bullets, projectiles

- ☒ The details of modern ballistics can be traced to *puranas*.
- ☒ Indian scientists test fired a new ballistic missile today.

## **BAN**

to forbid, outlaw

- ☑ **Syn.** prohibit, debar
- \* **Ant.** permit, admit
- ☒ Jagan was banned from the bar for life after he misbehaved and caused damage.

## **BANAL**

trite, overly common

- ☑ **Syn.** cliched, hackneyed
- \* **Ant.** original, uncommon
- ☒ His lyrics are considered banal and are no longer popular.

## **BANDANA** N.

a large coloured spotted handkerchief often used as a neckerchief

- ☒ You can spot gypsies wearing bandanas on the beaches of Goa.

## **BANDIT** N.

brigand, desperado, footpad

- ☑ **Syn.** outlaw, crook, conman
- ☒ Travellers started avoiding the Pune-Nashik highway at night, after bandits looted bus passengers.

## **BANE** N. **BANEFUL** Adj.

destruction, death, source of evil, curse, source of bad luck or harm, cause of ruin

- ☑ **Syn.** scourge, curse, pestilence
- \* **Ant.** boon, benefit, advantage
- ☒ Sloth and corruption are the bane of Indian administration.

**BANTER** V., N.

to tease playfully and in good humour

- ☑ **Syn.** gossipry, small-talk, chit-chat
- ★ **Ant.** debate, deliberation
- ☒ Gandhi's banter with Charlie is a cherished page of history.
- ☒ He was surprised to see the violent reaction of his friend on his banter.

**BAPTISE** V. **BAPTISM** N.

to give a name to, to administer baptism

- ☑ **Syn.** sanctify, describe, denominate, dub
- ☒ A Christian is no Christian unless he is baptised.

**BARB** N.

a wounding or wittily pointed remark, a medieval cloth headdress.

- ☑ **Syn.** insult, dig, taunt, sting
- ☒ The barbs suffered by Adolf Hitler in childhood transformed him into the Fuhrer.

**BARBAROUS** Adj. **BARBARIAN** N. **BARBARIC** Adj.

uncivilised, uncultured, harsh or brute

- ☒ In the Second World War, the Japanese army was among the most barbarous.
- ☒ The barbaric treatment of the prisoners in Iraq by American armed forces was condemned by the world.

**BARBECUE** V., N.

to roast or broil on a rack over hot coals; a fireplace for roasting meat

- ☒ My favourite dish is chicken marinated and barbecued.

**BARGE** V. **BARGE** N.

to thrust oneself heedlessly or unceremoniously, a roomy pleasure boat

- ☒ Anil suddenly barged into the conference room and this annoyed his father.
- ☒ Owning a big barge is a sign of affluence among the fishermen in America.

**BAROQUE** N., Adj.

a bold style in architecture, extravagant, ornate, elaborate style of decoration or presentation

- ☑ **Syn.** decorative, elaborate, rococo
- ★ **Ant.** plain, basic, pure, bare, obvious
- ☒ We are fascinated by Melinda's absolutely baroque life; her huge Victorian house, complex career and elaborate clothing intrigue us.
- ☒ The baroque entrance to the lobby is indeed impressive.

**BARONIAL** Adj.

grand, majestic, august, grandiose

- ☑ **Syn.** grand, impressive, opulent
- ★ **Ant.** humble, modest, poor, meek
- ☒ The baronial rooms of his house depict opulence.

**BARRAGE** (*BARAAJ*) N.

a heavy or continuous fire, as of questions; a dam

- ☑ **Syn.** bombardment, onslaught
- ☒ Farrakha Barrage has considerably mitigated the flood problem in Bengal and Bihar.
- ☒ Salman dodged a barrage of questions after his court appearance and sped away.

**BASH** N.

party, celebration

**BASHFUL** Adj.

shy, demure, quiet

- ☑ **Syn.** coy, diffident, nervous
- ★ **Ant.** bold, extrovert, gregarious
- ☒ She gave a bashful smile as he complimented her on her good work.

**BASK** V.

to lie in the warmth or sunshine

- ☑ **Syn.** lie around, laze around, relax
- ☒ You can always see tourists basking in the sun on the beaches of Goa.

**BASTION** N.

a strongly fortified, secured, guarded place

- ☑ **Syn.** bulwark, fort, embankment
- ☒ The club regarded itself as one of the last bastions of male supremacy.

**BATE** V.

to reduce the force or intensity of

- ☑ **Syn.** slacken, subside, wane
- ☒ The hunter waited with bated breath for the lion to take the bait.

**BAUBLE** N.

trinket, trifle

- ☒ Young children take pride in showing off their baubles.

**BAWDY** Adj.

indecent, obscene

- ☑ **Syn.** coarse, vulgar, lewd
- ★ **Ant.** refined, advanced, superior
- ☒ The bawdy remarks infuriated Ipshta and she retaliated.

**BAWL** V., N.

cry, lament, grieve, bemoan, wail

- ☑ **Syn.** cry, howl, wail, roar, sob, shout
- ★ **Ant.** whisper, murmur, undertone
- ☒ She lay there bawling but nobody came to forward to comfort her.

**BAY**(v)

to howl long and deep

(n) – large body of water, recess of land

- ☑ **Syn.** howl, bellow
- ☒ The dog bayed all night, much to the annoyance of the neighbours.

**BEATIFIC** Adj., **BEATITUDE** N.

supremely happy, angelic, giving bliss, blissful

☑ **Syn.** innocent, saintly, virtuous

\* **Ant.** evil, wrong, depraved, immoral

☒ The beatific smile on the face of the pilot belied the fact that he was facing certain death.

**BEAU** N.

lover, dandy, boyfriend

☒ Sara broke up with her beau and needed emotional support.

**BECKON** V.

to make a summoning to, gesture, motion, nod

☑ **Syn.** signal, sign, summon, gesture

\* **Ant.** dismiss, release, discharge, sack

☒ The nation beckons you, young man, rise and shine.

**BEDIZEN** V., **BEDIZENMENT** N.

to dress vulgarly

☒ I was shocked to see girls bedizened in see-through costumes in the bar.

**BEDRAGGLE** V.

to wet thoroughly

☒ The puppy waited outside the door, bedraggled and miserable, hoping to be allowed in.

**BELABOUR** V.

to attack verbally, to explain or insist on excessively

☒ You do not have to belabour the point, I have already accepted my mistake.

**BEFUDDLE** V.

confuse thoroughly

☑ **Syn.** muddle, mix up, bewilder, baffle

\* **Ant.** teach, coach, tutor, educate, drill

☒ The umpire's strange signal befuddled not just the batsman but also the entire fielding side.

**BEGRUDGE** V.

resent, envy, resist

☒ They begrudged having to stay with their sick father, but put up with it for the sake of the patrimony that awaited them.

**BEGUILE**

to deceive, mislead, charm

☑ **Syn.** dupe, bewitch

\* **Ant.** be honest or straight

☒ You will be beguiled by his sweet talk.

**BEHEST** N.

command, an urgent prompting

☑ **Syn.** request, command, order, will

☒ The world trade no longer functions at the behest of any one superpower.

**BEHEMOTH**

huge creature or thing

☑ **Syn.** colossus, goliath

\* **Ant.** tiny, lilliput

☒ The spate of mergers are creating corporate behemoths.

**BELATED**

late, behind time

☑ **Syn.** delayed, overdue

\* **Ant.** early, punctual

☒ George handed Sushmita a belated birthday gift with an apologetic grin.

**BELEAGUER**

harass, surround

☑ **Syn.** annoy, badger

\* **Ant.** assist, aid

☒ Manisha's beleaguered parents finally gave in to her request for a PC.

**BELITTLE**

to represent as unimportant, make light of

☑ **Syn.** demean, disparage

\* **Ant.** praise, applaud

☒ Chandrika's parents scolded her for constantly belittling her younger sister's views.

**BELLICOSE**

ready to fight, aggressive

☑ **Syn.** irascible, hostile

\* **Ant.** peaceloving, amiable

☒ Immediately after defeating one of his enemies, the bellicose chieftain declared war on another.

**Mini Revision Test**

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

- |                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. banal       | a. surrounded          |
| 2. bastion     | b. unoriginal          |
| 3. beleaguer   | c. combative           |
| 4. belittle    | d. stronghold          |
| 5. belligerent | e. make to seem little |

**Answer Key - Mini Revision Test**

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

**BELLIGERENT**

hostile, aggressive, fighter

- ☑ **Syn.** disputatious, quarrelsome
- \* **Ant.** neutral, friendly
- ☒ The bartender realised that there was no subduing the belligerent drunk.

**BELLOW V.**

to make a violent cry, to roar out like a bull, scream

- ☑ **Syn.** shout, roar, yell, bawl, holler
- \* **Ant.** whisper, sigh, rumour, hint
- ☒ Hitler was known to bellow at his subordinates.

**BEMOAN V.**

to express deep grief or distress over

- ☒ Ruby bemoaned separation from her lover for six months.

**BEMUSE V. BEMUSEMENT N.**

**BEMUSED** Adj.

to put in confusion

- ☑ **Syn.** bewilder, puzzle, perplex, muddle
- ☒ The bemused parents looked at their son's ponytail carefully.

**BENCHMARK**

standard of measure

- ☑ **Syn.** criterion, yardstick
- ☒ The average scores of the previous year's students are used as a benchmark to assess the new batch.

**BENEDICTION N.**

good wishes, blessings, encouragement, sanction

- ☑ **Syn.** blessing, approval, sanction
- ☒ Benediction, they say, at the right time, in right amounts, can inspire one to move mountains.

**BENEFACTOR**

someone giving aid or money

- ☑ **Syn.** patron, champion
- ☒ A mysterious benefactor paid off Ravina's debts, making it possible for her children to attend college.

**BENEFICENT**

kindly in action and purpose, charitable, producing good effects

- ☑ **Syn.** altruistic, philanthropic
- \* **Ant.** unkind, mean
- ☒ Despite his tough reputation, Kumar was a beneficent man, and donated millions to worthy charities.

**BENEVOLENCE N., BENEVOLENT Adj.**

charitableness, philanthropy, kindness

- ☑ **Syn.** contribution, donation, largesse
- \* **Ant.** enmity, resentment, malignancy
- ☒ His benevolence turned out to be a charade to cover his nefarious activities.
- ☒ His benevolent nature is reflected in many of his charity projects.

**BENIGN Adj.**

kindly, favourable, gracious, gentle, mild, not malignant

- ☑ **Syn.** humane, clement, humanitarian
- \* **Ant.** barbarous, cruel, malignant.
- ☒ Her benign presence lent glitter to the occasion.

**BEQUEATH V. BEQUEST N.**

to leave by will for another, to leave for posterity

- ☑ **Syn.** bestow, accord, hand out
- ☒ Picasso bequeathed Spain and France most of his paintings and sculptures.
- ☒ 'Liberty, equality and fraternity' was one of the rallying cries of the French revolution.

**BERATE**

to scold harshly

- ☑ **Syn.** rebuke, admonish
- \* **Ant.** praise, laud
- ☒ Andy was embarrassed when his mother berated him in public for damaging the family car.

**BERSERK Adj.**

violently frenzied or angry, out of control, mad

- ☑ **Syn.** maniacal, amok, crazy, mad
- \* **Ant.** sane, sensible, sound, normal
- ☒ Denied permission to marry his lady love, Prince Dipendra went berserk and opened fire on his entire family.

**BEREAVE V., BEREAVEMENT N.**

to deprive of something, to take away by force, state of sorrow after the death of a beloved

- ☒ He was bereaved of his possessions when his father kicked him out of the house.
- ☒ The entire nation was in bereavement after the death of the young prime minister.

**BESEECH V.**

to entreat, to implore, to ask for, to solicit,

- ☑ **Syn.** beg, request, ask, plead, press
- ☒ He came again and again beseeching for money.

**BESIEGE V.**

to surround to force to give up, harass, cause to feel distressed

- ☑ **Syn.** blockade, surround, beset
- \* **Ant.** divest, uncover, expose
- ☒ After the controversial film was telecast the television company was besieged by angry phone calls and letters.

**BESMIRCH V.**

to make dirty with smoke or soot, to sully, soil, defile

- ☑ **Syn.** defame, scandalise, malign, slur
- ☒ The crimes they committed in the Second World War besmirched the country's name.

**BESTOW**

to give as a gift

- ☑ **Syn.** confer on, award to
- \* **Ant.** deprive, refuse
- ☒ The students bestowed many gifts upon the teacher on her retirement.

**BETROTH V., BETROTHAL N.**

become engaged to marry

- ☒ Their betrothal came as a surprise to most of their classmates.

**BEVY N.**

group, assembly, collection, cluster, covey, flock

- ☒ **Syn.** horde, throng, multitude, pack
- ☒ He got to see a bevy of beautiful girls at the pageant.

**BIAS**

prejudice, slant

- ☒ **Syn.** partiality, favouritism
- \* **Ant.** impartiality, objectivity
- ☒ Racial bias in employment is illegal in the United States.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

list of books

- ☒ **Syn.** catalogue, list of references
- ☒ Please include a bibliography at the end of the thesis so that the reviewer can identify the sources.

**BIBLIOPHILE**

book lover

- ☒ **Syn.** bookworm, bibliomaniac
- ☒ The librarian was a real bibliophile; she knew every author we mentioned.

**BICKER V.**

quarrel, quibble, argue

- ☒ **Syn.** dispute, debate, squabble
- \* **Ant.** agree, consent, correspond
- ☒ It is pity that educated girls bicker over trivial matters.

**BIGOT N., BIGOTED Adj.**

biased, narrow-minded person

- ☒ **Syn.** extremist, dogmatist, hypocrite
- ☒ The bigot was thoroughly disliked for his hate-filled opinions.
- ☒ She's so bigoted that she refuses to accept anyone who doesn't think like her.

**BILATERAL**

two-sided

- ☒ **Syn.** two-pronged, joint
- \* **Ant.** independent, unilateral
- ☒ The battle finally came to a halt when the two sides signed a bilateral treaty.

**BILIOUS Adj.**

related to liver trouble, irritable, suffering from indigestion

- ☒ The ending of the financial year sees many a bilious businessmen.

**BILK V., N.**

to cheat out of something valuable, frustrate, escape

- ☒ **Syn.** defraud, baffle, disappoint
- ☒ The fake *fakir* bilked the lady of her belongings in the name of God.

**BILLET-DOUX N.**

a love-letter

- ☒ The love-smitten scholar handed her a note saying, "Here's a little billet-doux," and the simple lady thought he was giving her the bill for the food.

**BILLOW V., BILLOWING Adj.**

swelling out in waves, surging

- ☒ The billowing emotions across the country may lead to war.

**BINGO N., Interjection**

a game, an expression of unexpectedness

- ☒ I was just about to borrow some money when bingo! - I won the lottery.

**BIOPSY N.**

the removal and examination of tissue, cells or fluid from a living body

- ☒ After studying the biopsy report, the doctor assured the patient that the growth was benign.

**BISECT – to cut into two (usually equal) parts**

- ☒ **Syn.** break in two, split
- \* **Ant.** join, unite
- ☒ The new road bisected the forest, putting all the small animals at risk.

**BIVOUCAC N., V.**

a temporary shelter or camp, tent

- ☒ The first time I slept outdoors was when we had to spend the night in a bivouac in the last year of school.

**BIZARRE Adj.**

striking; out of ordinary

- ☒ **Syn.** fantastic, extravagant, eccentric
- ☒ Most fashion designers present bizarre creations.

**BLANCH V.**

bleach, whiten; to parboil in water or steam in order to remove the skin

- ☒ **Syn.** grow pale, lighten, blench
- ☒ Use blanched almonds for this recipe.

**BLAND Adj.**

smooth, gentle, suave, polite, mild

- ☒ **Syn.** insipid, weak, tasteless, plain
- \* **Ant.** spicy, piquant, peppery, zesty
- ☒ Continental food is too bland for the Indian palate.

**BLANDISHMENT N.**

coaxing, cajoling, flattering, adulation

- ☒ Despite the blandishments offered by the salesman, she resisted buying the product.

**BLARE V., N.**

to roar, to sound harshly, loud, flamboyance

- ☒ **Syn.** blast, boom, make a racket
- ☒ The blaring horns of the truck will make you deaf one day.
- ☒ His attire this evening is nothing but a blare.

**BLASPHEMY N. BLASPHEMOUS Adj.**

words/actions meant to mock something, profane speaking, swearing about something sacred, irreverence, cursing

- ☑ **Syn.** desecration, impiety, sacrilege
- \* **Ant.** faithfulness, godliness, piousness
- ☒ Blasphemy is punishable by death in certain fundamentalist countries.
- ☒ Salman Rushdie earned the "fatwa" for his allegedly blasphemous writings.

**BLATANT**

glaring, obvious, showy

- ☑ **Syn.** shameless, evident
- \* **Ant.** subtle, inconspicuous
- ☒ The building was constructed in blatant violation of the law.

**BLEAK Adj.**

colourless, cold, depressing, grim

- ☑ **Syn.** barren, exposed, gaunt, open
- \* **Ant.** cheerful, happy, smiling, joyful
- ☒ The chances of a majority government at the centre has now become bleak.

**BLEMISH N., V.**

flaw, stain, defect, scar, blot

- ☑ **Syn.** mark, imperfection, fault, blotch
- ☒ Morarjibhai's 75 years in public life were without a blemish.

**BLISS N.**

the highest happiness, heavenly happiness

- ☑ **Syn.** ecstasy, paradise, delight
- \* **Ant.** misery, sadness, grief, sorrow
- ☒ It's bliss to be able to lie back and just forget all about your worries.

**BLITHE Adj.**

cheerful, sprightly, gay, joyous, merry, casual, lighthearted

- ☑ **Syn.** carefree, unconcerned, happy
- \* **Ant.** tense, anxious, bothered, edgy
- ☒ He blithely ignored the warning and swam out far from the shore.

**BLITZ or BLITZKRIEG N.**

a sudden, overwhelming attack; an intensive aerial campaign

- ☑ **Syn.** raid, bombardment, onslaught
- ☒ The Israeli blitzkrieg at Entebbe remains a landmark rescue operation.
- ☒ The launch of the new car was accompanied by a media blitz involving newspapers, magazines, television and radio.

**BLOAT V. BLOATED Adj.**

to swell out, to puff out, to dilate

- ☑ **Syn.** inflate, blow up, expand, distend
- ☒ The doctor said her face was looking bloated because of water retention.

**BLOND (also BLONDE) N., Adj.**

a person of fair complexion and golden, light auburn coloured hair

- ☑ **Syn.** fair haired, pale, flaxen
- ☒ Blondes are generally considered beautiful.
- ☒ Meg Ryan's blonde hair gels well with her personality.

**BLUSH V.**

to grow red out of shame and confusion

- ☑ **Syn.** go red, flush, colour, redden
- \* **Ant.** blench, draw back, falter, recoil
- ☒ He blushed profusely when she asked him out for dinner.

**BLUSTER V., N.**

to talk or act with noisy swaggering threats, threaten empty, bully

- ☑ **Syn.** harangue, bulldoze, rant, bristle
- ☒ The bully was all bluster and no substance.
- ☒ Many found Fidel Castro's blusters against the USA quite amusing.

**BOG V., N.**

marsh, morass, swamp, slow down

- ☑ **Syn.** marshland, quagmire, retard
- ☒ The expansion plans of the company have been bogged down by certain controversies.

**BOGGLING Adj.**

something astounding, astonishing, amazing

- ☒ Many mind-boggling problems in LR section of CAT 2004 were responsible for the student's poor performance.

**BOHEMIAN N.**

someone who sets social conventions aside, an artist, unconventional, unorthodox

- ☒ Maqbool Fida Hussein is known for his Bohemian ways.

**BOISTEROUS Adj.**

wild, noisy and exuberant; turbulent, violent, rough

- ☑ **Syn.** clamorous, obstreperous
- \* **Ant.** quiet, shy, timid
- ☒ The children were having a boisterous game in the playground.

**BOLERO N.**

a Spanish dance ; a loose waist-length jacket open at the front

- ☒ Sofia looked beautiful in a beige bolero.
- ☒ There is a bolero being performed at the night-club tonight.

**BOLSTER V.**

to support, to give a boost to, reinforce

- ☑ **Syn.** boost, strengthen, encourage
- \* **Ant.** undermine, weaken, challenge
- ☒ Her confidence in group discussions is bolstered by many practice sessions.

**BOMBASTIC**

using high-sounding but meaningless words

- ☑ **Syn.** pompous, grandiloquent
- ★ **Ant.** simple, unpretentious
- ☒ The dictator's speeches were mostly bombastic; his outrageous claims had no basis in fact.

**BONANZA**

extremely large amount; something profitable

- ☑ **Syn.** godsend, windfall
- ☒ Julie was not sure how to use the bonanza when she won the lottery.

**BONHOMIE N., BONHOMOUS Adj.**

good-natured easy friendliness

- ☑ **Syn.** geniality, affability
- ☒ An atmosphere of bonhomie prevailed at the dance party.

**BOON** – blessing, something to be thankful for

- ☑ **Syn.** godsend, bonus
- ★ **Ant.** curse, disadvantage
- ☒ Deepak realised that the new employee's artistic skills would be a real boon to the company.

**BOOMERANG V., N.**

rebound, backfire; a bent or angular throwing club

- ☑ **Syn.** bounce back, ricochet
- ☒ It was ironic that the Vietnam war boomeranged on the USA.

**BOOR**

crude person, one lacking manners or taste

- ☑ **Syn.** lout, ruffian
- ★ **Ant.** gentlemanly, well-behaved
- ☒ He behaved like a boor, disturbing the recital with his continuous chatter.

**BOOZE V., N.**

to drink excessively

- ☒ They always go boozing after their football match.
- ☒ There's a party at my hostel room on Friday night – bring some booze.

**BOULEVARD N.**

a broad road bordered by trees, channel, promenade

- ☑ **Syn.** avenue, thoroughfare, drive
- ☒ The boulevards of Paris remain unparalleled in terms of beauty.

**BOUNTY N., BOUNTIFUL Adj.**

liberality in bestowing gifts

- ☑ **Syn.** reward, prize, payment, generosity
- ☒ The bounty of politicians at the election-time is no longer a secret.
- ☒ The bountiful harvest this year has brought smiles to many a face.

**BOURSE N.**

a European stock exchange

- ☒ There has been a rise in the number of bourses operating in Europe.

**BOURGEOIS**

middle-class

- ☑ **Syn.** conservative, materialistic
- ★ **Ant.** proletarian, communist
- ☒ The bourgeois family found it too difficult to adjust to the new working-class neighbours.

**BOUT N.**

contest, encounter, outbreak

- ☑ **Syn.** short period, spell, attack, fit
- ☒ This first bout with destiny made him maturer.
- ☒ He suffered from a bout of bronchitis.

**BOVINE Adj.**

like cow/cattle, dull, placid

- ☒ Democracy is wasted on the bovine and the asinine.
- ☒ He was a gentle, rather bovine man.

**BOWDLERIZE V.**

to remove objectionable material from a writing, to censor

- ☑ **Syn.** cut, abridge, expurgate, amend
- ☒ So far Taslima Nasreen has refused to bowdlerize 'Lajja'.

**BRACKISH Adj.**

somewhat saline, rather salty, unappealing

- ☑ **Syn.** salty, briny
- ☒ Though the water in those marshes is brackish and foul-smelling to us, the birds seem to like it.
- ☒ Rahul even sipped the brackish tea prepared by his fiancée.

**BRAGGADOCIO N.**

arrogant pretension, braggart

- ☑ **Syn.** braggart, cockiness
- ☒ Rahul's braggadocio was beginning to irritate his girlfriend.

**BRANDISH V.**

to wave and show as a weapon, flourish

- ☑ **Syn.** swing, wave about
- ☒ Brandishing black flags, the protesters gheraoed the minister.

**BRASH Adj., BRASHNESS N.**

reckless, impetuous, impudent, audacious

- ☑ **Syn.** hasty, foolhardy, aggressive
- ★ **Ant.** sluggish, unhurried, measured
- ☒ The manager's brashness was the cause of the company's failure.
- ☒ Don't you think that suit is a bit brash for a funeral?

**BRAVADO N.**

a display of bravery, false show of bravery, swagger, assumed air of defiance

- ☑ **Syn.** boldness, daring
- ☒ It was an act of bravado that made him ask his boss to resign.

**BRAZEN**

bold, shameless, impudent, of or like brass

- ☑ **Syn.** immodest, abashed
- ★ **Ant.** modest, shy
- ☒ The coach found the declaration to be rather brazen but hoped his cricket team would pull off a win.

**BREACH**

act of breaking, violation

- ☑ **Syn.** contravention, infringement
- ★ **Ant.** bridge, upholding
- ☒ The record company sued the singer for breach of contract when he recorded for another company.

**BREVITY N.**

conciseness, shortness, terseness

- ☑ **Syn.** briefness, concision, pithiness
- ★ **Ant.** length, span
- ☒ Brevity is the hallmark of a seasoned orator.

**BREW V., N.**

to prepare by infusion, boiling and fermentation, to plot; a beverage 'concoction made by brewing'

- ☑ **Syn.** make, ferment, distil, blend
- ☒ Caesar hardly realised what was brewing behind his back.
- ☒ This local brew is one of the strongest liquors I have ever had.

**BRIC-A-BRAC N.**

old curiosities, knickknacks, ornaments etc.

- ☒ Tourists flock to chor-bazaar for buying bric-a-brac.

**BRINK N.**

cliff-top, edge, verge

- ☒ Indian economy was on the brink of disaster in 1990.

**BRISK Adj.**

full of life and spirit, lively

- ☑ **Syn.** bustling, busy, energetic, lively
- ★ **Ant.** slow, sluggish, dawdling
- ☒ The cardiologist advised a brisk walk in the evening.

**BROACH V., N.**

to veer or yaw dangerously, to pierce for withdrawing the contents, to open up

- ☑ **Syn.** mention, bring up, approach
- ☒ During his visit, the PM is expected to broach the subject of foreign investment.

**BROOD V., N.**

to meditate silently, to think anxiously for sometime; the young of an animal or a family

- ☑ **Syn.** clutch, litter
- ☒ Shantanu sat at his desk, brooding darkly why she left him.

**BROOK V., N.**

tolerate, endure; a creek

- ☑ **Syn.** stream, rivulet, accept
- ☒ I could not just brook the delay.
- ☒ A five-star hotel along a brook appears to be a wonderful idea.

**BROTHEL N.**

a building where prostitutes are available

- ☒ Brothels have been in existence since early ages, catering to man's baser needs.

**BRUISE N., V.**

contusion, discolouration, sore spot,

- ☑ **Syn.** shiner, bump
- ☒ His ego was bruised when his sister outperformed him in tennis.
- ☒ She suffered a few cuts and bruises but nothing serious.

**BRUSQUE Adj.**

abrupt, blunt in manners, cheeky, impudent, short, usually unpleasant in effect, curt

- ☑ **Syn.** offhand, rough, brisk, gruff
- ★ **Ant.** civil, social, national, communal
- ☒ The brusque young son of the old lady met a tragic end.

**BUCKLE V., N.**

to catch, clasp, bend, acquiesce, yield

- ☑ **Syn.** clip, fastener, collapse, crumple
- ★ **Ant.** undo, unfasten, untie, unbutton
- ☒ It's the weak who buckle under threats.

**BUCOLIC Adj.**

related to cattle-tending, pastoral, rustic, rural

- ☑ **Syn.** pastoral, country, countrified
- ★ **Ant.** urban, municipal, metropolitan
- ☒ Thanks to the government's heavy subsidies, bucolic pursuits earn handsome returns.

**BUFFET (v)**

to toss about

(n) – a meal consisting of several dishes from which guests serve themselves

- ☑ **Syn.** batter, strike repeatedly and violently
- ☒ The swing, buffeted by the wind, smashed into the tree and broke.

**BUFFOON N., BUFFOONERY N.**

a person always joking, clown, joker, jester

- ☑ **Syn.** clown, joker, comedian
- ☒ Chaplin's buffoonery was an effective tool of biting sarcasm.
- ☒ Doesn't he get tired of playing the buffoon in class?

**BULGE V., N.**

project, protrude, jut, overhang, swell, dilate

- ☑ **Syn.** protuberance, knot, hump
- ☒ Come forties and the battle of the bulge begins.
- ☒ Flesh bulged out where the elasticated clothing was too tight.

**BULLDOZE V.**

to intimidate, to bully, to demolish, push, jostle

- Syn.** flatten, raze, level, clear, force
- Bulldozing may win you the game but never the match.

**BULLION** (*BOOLYEN*) N.

gold and silver in the shape of rods or bars

- Syn.** gold, gold bars, gold ingots
- The bullion market came under attack as soon as news of war spread.

**BULLY N., V.**

a cruel oppressor of the weak, an overbearing fellow

- Syn.** blackmailer, intimidator
- Being an international bully, the USA knows its strengths only too well.
- Bipasha bullied her way into the meeting.

**BULWARK**

defense wall, anything serving as defense

- Syn.** fortification, barricade
- The villagers used logs to construct a bulwark against the invading army.

**BUMPTIOUS** Adj.

egotistic, often irritatingly self-assured, pushy, arrogant, unpleasantly confident

- Syn.** boastful, arrogant, brash
- \* **Ant.** modest, diffident, humble, meek
- Often, Ravindra comes across as a bumptious teenager but he's really thoughtful and intelligent.

**BUNGLE V., N.**

to do a job clumsily or awkwardly, goof up

- Syn.** botch, mismanage, ruin
- \* **Ant.** succeed, thrive, make it
- Our tour operators really bungled - they booked us on the wrong flight!
- Your bungle is going to cost the company dearly.

**BURGEON**

to sprout or flourish

- Syn.** proliferate, prosper
- \* **Ant.** shrink, wither
- We will need a major expansion to accommodate the burgeoning population of the city.

**BURGLAR N.**

housebreaker, raider, sneak thief, intruder

- Syn.** robber, criminal
- The anti-burglar alarm system failed last night.

**BURLESQUE N.**

ludicrous imitation, cheap or vulgar entertainment, satire, a literary or dramatic work making fun or ridiculing by comic exaggeration, a mockery or caricature, an imitation that ridicules

- Syn.** caricature, travesty, lampoon
- Street theatre often attempts the burlesque but rarely succeeds.

**BURNISH V., N.**

to make bright or lustrous by rubbing

- Syn.** shine, wax, buff, rub, clean
- The car lost its burnish in a year.
- A proper coach can burnish your skills in no time.

**BUST V.**

to break, shatter, crack, arrest

- Syn.** out of order, broken
- \* **Ant.** mend, repair, fix, restore
- The police busted the gang of drug dealers gang.
- Mary and her boyfriend bust up last week.

**BUTTRESS N., V.**

a support, foundation, base

- Syn.** prop, reinforcement, bolster
- Soon after the church was built buttresses had to be built along the south wall because it was beginning to collapse.

**BUXOM** Adj.

vigorously or healthily plump, full bosomed

- A scantily dressed buxom blonde attracted the crowd towards the new car she was promoting in the trade fair.

**Mini Revision Test**

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

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. benefactor | a. carefree          |
| 2. benign     | b. middle class      |
| 3. blatant    | c. donor             |
| 4. blithe     | d. not harmful       |
| 5. bourgeois  | e. offensively noisy |

**Answer Key - Mini Revision Test**

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