

ENGLISH VOCABULARY

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9. English Vocabulary

9.1 Antonyms

In antonym type question, a word in capitalized letter is mentioned, from among the choice, you have to choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the capitalized lettered word. The capitalized lettered word and the choices will be from the same part of the speech.

Example:

The antonym of **SUPPRESS** is

- a. broadcast
- b. ejaculate
- c. express
- d. extract
- e. invent

Ans: **(c)**.

Explanation: One meaning of 'suppress' is to prevent one's feelings ideas from being expressed. Another meaning of 'suppress' is to put an end to something by force. Your answer should, therefore be a word meaning 'to express one's feeling and ideas'. The correct answer is (c) express, to show or make a feeling or opinion.

Example:

The antonym of **UPSURGE** is

- a. backwardness
- b. decrease
- c. excursion
- d. sympathy
- e. fluency

Ans: **(b)**

Explanation: 'Upsurge' can be broken into prefix-up and root word surge. Meaning of prefix-up is 'to a higher place, position, condition, degree etc'. Meaning of surge is 'a forward movement'. Prefix-up and surge combine to convey a meaning, a sudden great increase. Thus answer choice (b) 'decrease' is correct.

9.1.1 Strategies for Antonyms:

1. The best way to answer antonym questions is to recall the antonyms of the capitalized word. Then go through the options to see whether you have selected the right answer.

2. It is not always possible to recall exact meaning of the capitalized word and hence its antonyms. You should try to recall the context in which you had read the given word.

3. If you can't get the meaning of capitalized word. Try to break it or look for the prefixes-word part that is added to the beginning of the word and to the roots.

4. The answer can be reached by the way of selection. In process of selection the right choice is selected by gathering information about the capitalized word.

5. Other way to tackle such objective question is to apply method of elimination to the answer choices. In this method, go through the answer choice and find why it could be the answer. This will minimise your chance to commit errors.

6. Always go through all the answer choices. Find reasons for why a certain answer choice is correct and also reason for why the other answer choices are not correct.

Exercise for practice

Choose the appropriate synonym for the bolder part of the sentence from the options given below

1. Find the antonym of **PERTINACIOUS**.
(a) Absent (b) Super filial
(c) deceptive (d) outdated
2. Find the antonym of **IMAGINATIVE**.
(a) notable (b) prosaic
(c) hollow (d) passive
3. Find the antonym of **NOCTURNAL**.
(a) laudable (b) terminal
(c) Speck led (d) daily
4. Find the antonym of **ANTIPATHY**.
(a) index (b) fondness
(c) neotype (d) abandon
5. Find the antonym of **CYNICAL**.
(a) Famous (b) trusting
(c) Valuable (d) express
6. Find the antonym of **CARTE BLANCHE**
(a) restriction (b) prevention
(c) unspiritual (d) accomplice
7. Find the antonym of **EXCORIATE**
(a) afflict (b) convent
(c) stimulate (d) praise.
8. Find the antonym of **LACHRYMOSE**.
(a) imperfect (b) impulsive
(c) cheerful (d) troubled
9. Find the antonym of **OPULENCE**.
(a) depression (b) poverty
(c) fortune (d) luxury
10. Find the antonym **HAPHAZARD**.
(a) above board (b) moderate
(c) momentous (d) deliberate

ANSWERS: -

1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6.(a) 7. (d) 8. (c) 9.
(b) 10. (d)
-

9.2 SYNONYMS

Most of the techniques that you have learned and mastered in previous antonym section will be equally helpful in solving the synonym questions. Most common types of synonym questions have a capitalized lettered word, from among the given choices; you have to choose the word that carries same or similar meaning to the capitalized lettered word. The capitalized word and the answer choices will be from the same part of speech.

Example:

The synonym of **HOMAGE** is

- a. zeal
- b. voyage
- c. donation
- d. tribute
- e. flavour

Ans : **(d)**

Explanation: Its synonym must be a word containing respect in its meaning. Answer choices 'zeal', 'voyage', 'donation' and 'flavour' have nothing to do with respect. The correct answer is (d) 'tribute which means 'an act of gifting ', 'words or expression of respect'.

Example:

The synonym of **Severe snowstorms** is

- a. avalanches
- b. earthquake
- c. blizzards
- d. cyclones
- e. tornadoes

Ans: **(c)**

Explanation: Answer choice words 'earthquake, cyclone and tornado' has nothing to do with snow. Your answer choice could be either (a) or (c). Meaning of 'avalanches' is 'great slide of snow, rocks, etc. from the mountain slope'. This obviously, is not a snow storm. The right answer is (c) 'blizzards'. Meaning of blizzard is 'severe snow storm'.

9.2.1 Strategies for Synonyms:

1. Try to recall the context in which you had read the given word, when it is not possible to recall its exact meaning.
 2. Try to break the word, look for the prefixes, roots or origin of the word as knowing about the origin helps to decipher the meaning to a great extent.
 3. Methods of selection and elimination (which were discussed in antonyms section) will help you in choosing the right answer.
 4. Sometimes the clue to the answer is hidden in the sentence itself. In this case, one of the answer choices must reflect the answer.
-

5. Before answering the questions you should be clear about idea, concept and tone of the sentence.

6. Last but not the least you should go through all the options very carefully.

Exercise for practice

1. Find the synonym of PSEUDOSCIENCE.
 (a) copy (b) forgery
 (c) quasi (d) spurious
2. Find the synonym of SURREPTITIOUS.
 (a) Ambient (b) Secret
 (c) Inundate (d) Rebuke
3. Find the synonym of POLYTHEISM.
 (a) Worship of many gods
 (b) Belief in spirits
 (c) Respect for all religions
 (d) Belief in many births
4. Find the synonym of INDEFATIGABLE.
 (a) Comfortable (b) Practical
 (c) Untiring (d) Strong
5. Find the synonym of NUNNARY.
 (a) of children's stories (b) of dead bodies
 (c) of unmarried (d) of coins.

ANSWERS: -

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

Find the appropriate synonym for the **bold part** of the sentence.

1. They **become pale with fear** at the sight of approaching figures.
 (a) scrutinized (b) blanched
 (c) sweated (d) horrified
 2. Other men **flew silently and quickly** across our sky like a meteor, but he shone like a
 Sun in the heaven.
 (a) Flitted (b) blossomed
 (c) Succumbed (d) transmitted
 3. The cute little girl is treated with **excessive admiration** wherever she goes.
 (a) critique (b) apprehension
 (c) adulation (d) calumny
 4. All the familiar land marks were **blotted out**.
-

- (a) sabotaged (b) obliterated
(c) hauled (d) disfigured

5. With a chisel you can either force open the top box or you can widen the slit.
(a) Price (b) Elevate
(c) trample (d) Expose

ANSWERS: -

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

9.3 ANALOGIES

Analogies, in a narrower sense, are a test of vocabulary. In a broader sense, however, they test the ability to see relationship between the meanings of words. First, a pair of words is given. These words are related to each other in a certain manner. You have to spot this relationship accurately and to identify, among the given words or word pairs, the ones that are similarly related.

Example:

TRUTH: FALSEHOOD:: VIRTUE: ?

1. Goodness 2. Vice 3. Altruism 4. Veracity

Ans : (2)

Explanation:

In this example you have to determine which of the given words has the same relationship to 'virtue', as 'truth' has to 'falsehood'.

The surest way to do this is to first spot the relationship. Once you spot what the relationship is, (in this case, that of opposite) it becomes easy to note that the opposite of 'virtue' is [2] 'vice'. Do not read the alternatives till you have first determined the relationship between the capitalized pair.

9.3.1 Some Common Relationships:

1. CAUSE: EFFECT

LIQUOR: INTOXICATION

Liquor causes intoxication

2. OBJECT: PURPOSE

CORK: BOTTLE

A cork is used to close a bottle.

3. PART: WHOLE

BOOK: LITERATURE

A book is part of literature.

4. PART: PART

FINGER: HAND

Finger is a part of a hand, which again is part of a larger body.

5. OBJECT TO ACTION

GUN: FIRE

You fire a gun.

6. ACTION TO OBJECT/ PHENOMENON

EAT: FOOD

You eat food.

7. SYNONYMS

SLIM: THIN

Thin is the synonym of slim.

8. ANTONYMS

RELIGIOUS: ATHEIST

A religious person believes in god, while an atheist is a non-believer. The pair is therefore antonymous.

9. DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS

JACKAL: SLY

A jackal has the characteristic of being sly.

10. CLASS: MEMBER

MAMMAL: MAN

Man falls under the class of Mammals.

11. MANNER: ACTIVITY

RAMBLE: SPEAK

Rambling is speaking in an incoherent manner.

12. ACTION: ITS SIGNIFICANCE

BLUSH: EMBARRASSMENT

A blush signifies embarrassment.

13. WORKER: WORKPLACE

PRIEST: CHAPEL

The main workplace of a priest is the chapel.

14. SPATIAL: SEPARATION

LADAKH: KANYAKUMARI

They are spatially separated so that they are at the extreme North and extreme South of India.

15. SYMBOL: QUALITY

WHITE: PEACE

White symbolizes peace.

16. DEGREES

COOL: COLD

Cold is of a higher degree than cool.

9.3.2 Strategies for Analogies:

1. Define the Relationship:

In the analogy questions, to avoid going wrong, the first step is to define the relationship between the two key words. The relationship should be defined either on paper or in your mind in the form of a sentence. Until then, don't look at the answer options. Once the relationship is defined, then search for an option where a similar kind of sentence can be formed connecting the two words meaningfully.

Example:

ANXIOUS	:	REASSURANCE
1. resentful	:	gratitude
2. perplexed	:	clarification
3. inured	:	imagination
4. vociferous	:	suppression

Explanation:

The relationship between the two capitalized words can be expressed as: "an anxious person requires reassurance"; similarly, "a perplexed person requires clarification".

2. The "all that glitter is not gold" principle:

Often question setters give answer options which have apparent subject similarities. These answers will straightaway attract your attention. But going by similarity of subjects or issues, more often than not, these are just to deceive you.

Example:

STUTTER	:	SPEECH
1. Blare	:	Hearing
2. Aroma	:	Smelling
3. Astigmatism	:	Sight
4. Novocain	:	Touch

Explanation:

A stutter is a defect of speech. Similarly, in [3], Astigmatism is a defect of the sight. So [3] is the answer. But choice [1] 'Blare: Hearing" is an option which immediately attracts the attraction, as it is closely related to hearing. But then, blare is not a defect of hearing. Hence, [3].

3. Beyond the obvious meaning:

Sometimes one of the capitalized words in the Analogy will have a secondary meaning which is uncommon. Going by the common meaning of the word, you could get confused in defining the relationship.

Example:

ANNEX	:	BUILDING
-------	---	----------

- | | | |
|---------------|---|----------|
| 1. Postscript | : | Letter |
| 2. Lyric | : | Song |
| 3. Paragraph | : | Text |
| 4. Hill | : | Mountain |

Explanation:

The common meaning of annex is to add, append or take possession of. But here adding or taking possession of a building is not the relationship. Annex has another meaning of "supplementary building". Similarly, a postscript is a supplementary part of the letter.

4. Thinner line of distinction:

Often in defining a relationship we come up with a very broad defining relationship and then subsequently get more than one option which suits the relationship. This is an indication of the fact that we have to narrow down our definition to more precise terms.

Example:

- | | | |
|-------------|---|------------|
| DIAMETER | : | CIRCLE |
| 1. Diagonal | : | Rectangle |
| 2. Equator | : | Hemisphere |
| 3. Altitude | : | Triangle |
| 4. Noon | : | Day |

Explanation:

In this question if the relation is that "the diameter divides the circle into two equal parts", then options [1], [2] and [4] all look attractive enough to be the answer. Diagonal, Equator and noon divide rectangle, hemisphere and day into two equal parts respectively. So we have to look for a thinner line of distinction. Going back to the main relationship, one can define it as "a diameter is a line dividing the circle, which is a linear figure, into two equal parts". This definition rules out the choices [2] and [4] because a Hemisphere is not a linear figure, and also because the Equator is not a line which passes through the Center of the Earth; rather, it is an imagery circular line which divides the Earth into two equal parts. In [4], noon is not a line dividing the day into two equal halves. Thus [1] is the answer. Here we have arrived at the answer through the process of elimination which is a very useful device in such cases.

5. A grammatical relationship:

It is often important to see what parts of speech are the capitalized words. There are certain words which are different parts of speech depending on their usage.

Example:

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---------|
| MAROON | : | SAILOR |
| 1. Red | : | Ship |
| 2. Crimson | : | Flower |
| 3. Stranded | : | Tourist |
| 4. Color | : | Dress |
-

Explanation:

The word maroon has two meanings, one referring to the color maroon which is a noun. Another is the verb-the meaning being "to abandon" or "to strand". Obviously, the relationship is not of a sailor to the maroon color. It is about a sailor who has been abandoned. Similarly "a tourist gets stranded". The other options are only Eye-catchers trying to decoy you. Hence,[3].

Exercise for practice

1. VACCINATION: DISEASE

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| (A) civil servant: furlough | (B) furnace: heat |
| (C) fortification: enemy | (D) vacation: tourist |
| (E) band: music | |

2. DILATE : CONTRACT

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| (A) hock : pawn | (B) wax : wane |
| (C) contaminate : spread | (D) intrude : disturb |
| (E) scribble : write | |

3. TOM HAWK : RED INDIANS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (A) wheel : Mayans | (B) chariot : Indus people |
| (C) boomerang: Australian aborigines | (D) rocket: Russians |
| (E) skirt : Scotland | |

1. LAUDATORY : DEFAMATORY

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| (A) adult : puerile | (B) impartial |
| (C) flamboyant : colorful | (D) harmonious: pleasant |
| (E) reciprocal : mutual | |

5. FRATERNITY : MEN

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| (A) convent : nuns | (B) reformatory : convicts |
| (C) cathedral : father | (D) sorority : women |
| (E) auditorium : audience | |

2. PRESCIENCE : PREDICTION

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (A) catcall : derision | (B) clairvoyant : séance |
| (C) hospitality : friend | (D) telepathy : communication |
| (E) wolf whistle : admiration | |

7. MISANTHROPE : HUMANITY

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) chauvinist : patriot | (B) agnostic : god |
| (C) misogynist : women | (D) hydrophobia : water |
| (E) witch : magic | |

8. ANACHRONOUS: TIME

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (A) Incongruous : place | (B) antiquated : old |
| (C) synergy : energy | (D) ecosystem : environment |
| (E) opposite : counter | |
-

9. RAQUET : TENNIS

(A) pawn: chess

(C) jockey : horse

(E) wooden hammer : polo

(B) tee : ball

(D) cork : badminton

10. SAVAGE : BARBARIC

(A) lucid : turbid

(C) prismatic: colourful

(E) venomous : virulent

(B) sallow : yellowish

(D) puerile : senile

ANSWERS: -

1.(C) 2.(B) 3. (C) 4. (A) 5. (D) 6. (D) 7. (C) 8. (A) 9. (C)
10.(E)

9.4 ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

There are many words in English which have a very comprehensive meaning. A single word can convey the sense of many words. The use of such words is considered to be good from the stylistic point of view. These words add to the depth, brevity, clarity, aptness and effectiveness of the language.

9.4.1 List of Popular Words

1. A person who believes in the total abolition of war. - **Pacifist**
 2. A person who does not believe in the existence of God. - **Atheist**
 3. A person with whom money or gain is the most important consideration. - **Materialist**
 4. A person who is indifferent to pleasure and pain. - **Stoic**
 5. One who is very simple and who easily believes whatever is told. - **Credulous**
 6. One with long experience in any field. - **Veteran**
 7. Consent of all - **Unanimous**
 8. A book or a work of art whose author is not known. - **Anonymous**
 9. One who takes up arms against the government. - **Rebel**
 10. Murder or murderer of a king. - **Regicide**
 11. Murder or murderer of one's own brother. - **Fratricide**
 12. A disease which spreads by physical touch or contact. - **Contagious**
 13. A person who is unable to pay his debts or honour his commitments - **Insolvent**
 14. Persons living at the same time - **Contemporaries**
 15. The period of gradual recovery of health after illness. - **Convalescence**
 16. To turn out of society. - **Ostracize**
 17. A remedy for all kinds of diseases or troubles. - **Panacea**
-

18. An elderly unmarried woman - **Spinster**
 19. Undue favour shown to one's own relatives. - **Nepotism**
 20. One who does a thing for pleasure and not as a profession. - **Amateur**
 21. One who is very particular or over scrupulous about small details. - **Meticulous**
 22. One who is a breaker of things of art and literature or, who opposes established institutions. - **Iconoclast**
 23. Speaking irreverently about God or sacred things. - **Blaspheme**
 24. The act of violating the sanctity of the church or any religious institution. - **Sacrilege**
 25. One who depends on and believes in fate. - **Fatalist**
 26. One who is filled with excessive and mistaken enthusiasm in religious matters. - **Fanatic or bigot**
 27. One who wishes to destroy all established governments, law and order. - **Anarchist**
 28. Medical examination of the dead body. - **Post mortem**
 29. A person who looks to the bright side of things. - **Optimist**
 30. The study of coins. - **Numismatics**
 31. One who eats too much. - **Glutton**
 32. A speech delivered without any preparation. - **Extempore**
 33. Something said or done at once without preparation. - **Impromptu**
 34. A speech or a poem recited at the beginning of a play. - **Prologue**
 35. A speech or a poem recited at the end of a play. - **Epilogue**
 36. An office for which no salary is paid. - **Honorary**
 37. A government by one person. - **Autocracy**
 38. A government by small group of powerful persons. - **Oligarchy**
 39. A government by the officials. - **Bureaucracy**
 40. A government by the churchmen. - **Theocracy**
 41. One who can use either hand with ease in writing or working. - **Ambidextrous**
 42. One who is well-versed in any art, particularly fine arts. - **Connoisseur**
 43. A style in which a writer makes a display of his knowledge and learning. - **Pedantic**
 44. An imaginary name assumed by an author. - **Pseudonym**
 45. Repetition of a writing, word for word. - **Verbatim**
 46. That which can be interpreted. - **Ambiguous**
-

47. The practice of borrowing words and ideas from other authors and using them as one's own; literary theft. - **Plagiarism**
48. Dramatic performance with dumb show. - **Pantomime**
49. The state of being married. - **Matrimony**
50. The custom of having more than two husbands at the same time. - **Polyandry**
51. Present everywhere (God). - **Omnipresent**
52. All-powerful, without end or limit (God). - **Omnipotent**
53. A lover of mankind. - **Philanthropist**
54. A hater of woman kind. - **Misogynist**
55. A lover of one's own self. - **Egoist**
56. A lover of others. - **Altruist**
57. A person who regards the whole world as his country. - **Cosmopolitan**
58. One who acts only for money. - **Mercenary**
59. Incapable of being corrected - **Incorrigible**
60. Incapable of being read - **Illegible**
61. Looking back into the past to bring it alive - **Retrospective**
62. One who leads others in any field - **Pioneer**
63. One who does not take any intoxicating drinks - **Teetotaler**
64. One who suffers from nervous disorder. - **Neurotic**
65. A trade or act prohibited by law - **Illicit**
66. One who walks in sleep - **Somnambulist**
67. One who talks in sleep - **Somniloquist**
68. That which cannot be defeated. - **Invincible**

Examples:

1. Animals living on land and in water

- (a) Amorphous (b) Ambivalent (c) Ambiguous (d) Amphibian

Ans: **(d)**

2. A light sailing boat built especially for racing

- (a) Yacht (b) Frigate (c) Dinghy (d) Canoe

Ans: **(a)**

3. Be the embodiment or perfect example of

- (a) Personify (b) Masquerade (c) Signify (d) Characterise

Ans: **(a)**

4. A house for storing grains

- (a) Godown (b) Granary (c) Cellar (d) Store

Ans: **(b)**

5. A name adopted by an author in his writings

- (a) Nickname (b) Pseudonym (c) Title (d) Nomenclature

Ans: **(b)**

6. Of unknown and unadmitted authorship

- (a) Unanimous (b) Vexation (c) Gullible (d) Anonymous

Ans: **(d)**

7. Member of a band of robbers

- (a) Thief (b) Pirate (c) Dacoit (d) Brigand

Ans: **(d)**

8. A person who is made to bear the blame due to others

- (a) Ignoramus (b) Nincompoop (c) Innocent (d) Scapegoat

Ans: **(d)**

9. A person who brings goods illegally into the country

- (a) Smuggler (b) Imposter (c) Exporter (d) Importer

Ans: **(a)**

10. Cutting for stone in the bladder

- (a) Vasectomy (b) Masquerade (c) Dichotomy (d) Tubectomy

Ans: **(b)**

Exercise for practice

Choose the one word which can be substituted for given word or sentence

1. A book containing information on all subjects.

- (a) Ledger (b) dictionary
(c) biography (d) encyclopedia.

2. A note to help memory is.

- (a) biography (b) memorandum
(c) diary (d) autograph.

3. The treat met of female diseases is.

- (a) oculist (b) orthopedist
(c) gynecology (d) dermatologist

4. The science of the diseases of the human body is.

- (a) pathology (b) oculist
(c) intern (d) neurology.
-

5. A government by the divine guidance is.
(a) plutocracy (b) monarchy
(c) theocracy (d) hierarchy.
6. An excessive patriotism is.
(a) autonomy (b) diplomacy
(c) revolt (d) chauvinism.
7. Rising from the dead is.
(a) idolatry (b) epitaph
(c) hearse (d) resurrection
8. The gown worn by a priest is.
(a) pulpit (b) aisle
(c) altar (d) cassock.
9. A squirrel's home is.
(a) drey (b) resort
(c) hutch (d) apiary.
10. A place where dead bodies are kept temporarily is.
(a) epitaph (b) hearse
(c) exhume (d) mortuary

ANSWERS :-

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1.(d) | 2.(b) | 3.(c) | 4.(a) | 5.(c) |
| 6.(a) | 7.(d) | 8.(d) | 9.(a) | 10(b). |
-

Commonly confused words

Here's a quick-reference list of pairs of words that regularly cause confusion.

<i>Word 1</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Word 2</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
accept	to agree to receive or do	except	not including
adverse	unfavourable, harmful	averse	strongly disliking; opposed
advice	recommendations about what to do	advise	to recommend something
affect	to change or make a difference to	effect	a result; to bring about a result
aisle	a passage between rows of seats	isle	an island
all together	all in one place, all at once	altogether	completely; on the whole
along	moving or extending horizontally on	a long	referring to something of great length
aloud	out loud	allowed	permitted
altar	a sacred table in a church	alter	to change
amoral	not concerned with right or wrong	immoral	not following accepted moral standards
appraise	to assess	apprise	to inform someone
assent	agreement, approval	ascent	the action of rising or climbing up
aural	relating to the ears or hearing	oral	relating to the mouth; spoken
balmy	pleasantly warm	barmy	foolish, crazy
bare	naked; to uncover	bear	to carry; to put up with
bated	with bated breath (in great suspense)	baited	with bait attached or inserted
bazaar	a Middle Eastern market	bizarre	strange
berth	a bunk in a ship, train, etc.	birth	the emergence of a baby from the womb
born	having started life	borne	carried
bough	a branch of a tree	bow	to bend the head; the front of a ship
brake	a device for stopping a vehicle; to stop a vehicle	break	to separate into pieces; a pause
breach	to break through or break a rule; a gap	breech	the back part of a gun barrel
broach	to raise a subject	brooch	a piece of jewellery

	for discussion		
canvas	a type of strong cloth	canvass	to seek people's votes
censure	to criticize strongly	censor	to ban parts of a book or film
cereal	a grass producing an edible grain	serial	happening in a series
chord	a group of musical notes	cord	a length of string; a cord-like body part
climactic	forming a climax	climatic	relating to climate
coarse	rough	course	a direction
complacent	smug and self-satisfied	complaisant	willing to please
complement	to add to so as to improve; an addition that improves something	compliment	to praise or express approval; an admiring remark
council	a group of people who manage or advise	counsel	advice; to advise
cue	a signal for action; a wooden rod	queue	a line of people or vehicles
curb	to keep something in check; a control or limit	kerb	(in British English) the stone edge of a pavement
currant	a dried grape	current	happening now; a flow of water, air, or electricity
defuse	to make a situation less tense	diffuse	to spread over a wide area
desert	a waterless, empty area	dessert	the sweet course of a meal
discreet	careful not to attract attention	discrete	separate and distinct
disinterested	impartial	uninterested	not interested
draught	a current of air	draft	a first version of a piece of writing
draw	an even score at the end of a game	drawer	a sliding storage compartment
dual	having two parts	duel	a fight or contest between two people
elicit	to draw out a reply or reaction	illicit	not allowed by law or rules
ensure	to make certain that something will happen	insure	to provide compensation if a person dies or property is damaged
envelop	to cover or	envelope	a paper container for

	surround		a letter
exercise	physical activity; to do physical activity	exorcise	to drive out an evil spirit
fawn	a young deer; light brown	faun	a mythical being, part man, part goat
flaunt	to display ostentatiously	flout	to disregard a rule
flounder	to move clumsily; to have difficulty doing something	founder	to fail
forbear	to refrain	forebear	an ancestor
foreword	an introduction to a book	forward	onwards, ahead
freeze	to turn to ice	frieze	a decoration along a wall
grisly	gruesome, revolting	grizzly	a type of bear
hoard	a store	horde	a large crowd of people
imply	to suggest indirectly	infer	to draw a conclusion
loath	reluctant, unwilling	loathe	to hate
loose	to unfasten; to set free	lose	to be deprived of; to be unable to find
meter	a measuring device	metre	a metric unit; rhythm in verse
militate	to be a powerful factor against	mitigate	to make less severe
palate	the roof of the mouth	palette	a board for mixing colours
pedal	a foot-operated lever	peddle	to sell goods
pole	a long, slender piece of wood	poll	voting in an election
pour	to flow or cause to flow	pore	a tiny opening; to study something closely
practice	the use of an idea or method; the work or business of a doctor, dentist, etc.	practise	to do something repeatedly to gain skill; to do something regularly
prescribe	to authorize use of medicine; to order authoritatively	proscribe	to officially forbid something
principal	most important	principle	a fundamental rule or belief
sceptic	a person inclined	septic	infected with bacteria

	to doubt		
sight	the ability to see	site	a location
stationary	not moving	stationery	writing materials
storey	a level of a building	story	a tale or account
titillate	to arouse interest	titivate	to make more attractive
tortuous	full of twists; complex	torturous	full of pain or suffering
wreath	an arrangement of flowers	wreathe	to surround or encircle
