



THE HINDU

THE HINDU EDITORIAL VOCABULARY BOOSTER

JULY 2020

**FOR ALL BANKING AND
GOVERNMENT EXAMS**

The **Hindu Newspaper** is treated as the Bible by the Exam Aspirants be it Bank Exam Aspirants, SSC Aspirants or UPSC Aspirants. Reading the Editorial section of the newspaper daily has twofold benefits: (a) It gives the editor's views on the latest happenings in India and the World, (b) It helps enhance English Vocabulary. In this eBook of "The Hindu Editorial Vocabulary Booster July 2020", we have come up with a list of difficult words taken from the Hindu Editorials of the July Month, with their **Meanings, Synonyms, Antonyms, and the Correct Usage of those words**. Read along to understand it better.

The Hindu Editorial Vocabulary Booster – July 2020

Sr. No.	Words	Meanings & Synonyms	Antonyms	Usage
1.	Abomination	A thing that causes disgust or loathing. Atrocity, Loathing, Hatred, Aversion	Liking, Love	Cruelty to animals is an abomination .
2.	Abut	Touch or lean on. Adjoin, Border	Recurve, Retreat, Diverge, Return, Recede.	Their property and our property abut .
3.	Abysmally	In an extremely bad way. Appallingly.	Superb	The critics were abysmally wrong on almost every point.
4.	Accountability	The fact or condition of being accountable. Responsibility, Liability, Answerability, Reporting	Unreliability, Irresponsibility	Some of the public officials lack accountability .
5.	Adversary	One's opponent in a contest, conflict, or dispute. Opponent, Rival, Foe	Ally, Supporter	Davis beat his old adversary in the quarterfinals.
6.	Aesthetic	Concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty. Attractive, Beauteous, Beautiful, Bonny	Grotesque, Hideous	The new building has little aesthetic value.
7.	Affliction	A cause of pain or harm. Disorder, Disease, Malady, Ailment	Consolation, Relief, Alleviation, Assuagement	She lost her sight and is now learning to live with her affliction .

8.	Agglomeration	A mass or collection of things; an assemblage. Collection, Mass, Cluster, Lump		This suburb has become just a vast agglomeration of houses, people, and cars.
9.	Aggression	Feelings of anger or antipathy resulting in hostile or violent behaviour; readiness to attack or confront. Hostility, Aggressiveness, Belligerence	Meekness, Diffidence	He has a lot of pent-up aggression .
10.	Agility	Ability to move quickly and easily. Ability to think & understand quickly Deftness, Dexterity, Nimbleness	Awkwardness, Clumsiness, Gaucheness, Gawkiness, Gawkishness	Games teach hand-eye coordination, mental agility , and alertness.
11.	Alacrity	Brisk and cheerful readiness. Eagerness, Willingness, Readiness, Enthusiasm, Ardour	Apathy	She accepted the invitation with alacrity .
12.	Albeit	Even though. Although		Living a modest life as an editor was not as appealing as living in the grand style, albeit as someone else's valet.
13.	Alleviate	Make (suffering, deficiency, or a problem) less severe. Reduce, Ease, Relieve	Aggravate	He could not prevent her pain, only alleviate it.
14.	Apprise	Inform or tell someone. Inform, Notify, Tell, Advise	Hoodwink, Mystify, Deceive, Mislead	They apprised him of his rights.
15.	Arbitrariness	The quality of being based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system. Peremptory, Imperious, Wilful		The story is a lesson on the arbitrariness of fate.

16.	Authoritarianism	The enforcement or advocacy of strict obedience to authority at the expense of personal freedom. Autocratic, Despotic, Dictatorial	Democratic, Liberal	The country's authoritarian regime maintains tight control over the media.
17.	Backlash	A strong negative reaction by a large number of people, especially to social or political development. Counterblast, Comeback	Closing, Opening, Retreat, Boo	The mayor foresaw no political backlash against his proposal.
18.	Behest	A person's orders or command. Instruction, Bidding, Request, Requirement	An appeal, Entreaty, Petition, Plea, Urging, Proposal, Recommendation, Suggestion	I only made the change at the author's behest .
19.	Blighting	Have a severely detrimental effect on. Ruin, Wreck, Spoil, Disrupt	Bless	A broken leg blighted her chances of winning the championship.
20.	Blistering	Extremely fast, forceful, or impressive. The criticism expressed with great vengeance. Scorching, Blinding, Severe	Mild	This is a blistering attack on the government's transport policy.
21.	Bone of Contention	A subject or issue over which there is continuing disagreement. Conflict, Altercation, Apple of discord, Argument	Agreement, Compatibility	The refinery also was a bone of contention .
22.	Bravura	Great technical skill and brilliance shown in a performance or activity.	Amateur, Amateurish, Artless, Rude, Unprofessional, Unskilful	It was a truly bravura performance of the ballet that brought the crowd to its feet.

		Virtuoso, Magnificent, Outstanding, Exceptional		
23.	Bulldozing	Use force insensitively when dealing with someone or something. Bully, Browbeat, Intimidate	Convince, Persuade	She bulldozed her daughter into buying a new dress.
24.	Calibrated	Carefully assessed, set, or adjusted. Correct, Fine-tune	Dissimilate	Doctor carefully calibrated the dosage of a medicine.
25.	Callousness	This case is emblematic of a larger problem. Cold-blooded, Compassionless	Charitable, Compassionate, Humane, Kind-hearted	The callousness of using children to send a political message.
26.	Catapult	To suddenly experience a particular state, such as being famous.	Refrain	The award for best actress meant that almost overnight she was catapulted into the limelight.
27.	Cliff-edge	A point where a situation changes very suddenly and completely in a damaging way, or where something suddenly becomes much worse. Sudden	Gradual	Retirement does not have to be a cliff edge , where you go from full-time work to no work at all overnight.
28.	Coerce	Persuade an unwilling person to do something by using force or threats. Pressure	Persuade	He was coerced into giving evidence.
29.	Conducive	Making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible. Favourable, Beneficial, Opportune	Unfavourable	The harsh lights and cameras were hardly conducive to a relaxed atmosphere.
30.	Confound	Cause surprise or confusion in (someone), especially by not according to their expectations.	Arrange, Classify, Order, Allocate, Distribute	The murder case has confounded investigators .

		Amaze, Astonish, Dumbfound		
31.	Consensus	A general agreement. An agreement, Harmony, Concord	Disagreement	There is a growing consensus that the current regime has failed.
32.	Contagious	The disease spread from one person or organism to another, typically by direct contact. Infectious, Communicable, Transmissible	Noncommunicable	The infection is highly contagious , so do not let anyone else use your towel.
33.	Contention	Heated disagreement. Dispute, Argument, Variance	Agreement	Freud's contention that all dreams were wished fulfilment.
34.	Contingent	Subject to change. Accidental, Fortuitous, Unforeseen	Predictable	The French contingent certainly made their presence known at this year's conference.
35.	Conundrum	A confusing and difficult problem or question. Problem, Difficulty, Quandary	Answer, Axiom, Explanation, Proposition, solution	Arranging childcare over the school holidays can be a real conundrum for working parents.
36.	Counterproductive	Having the opposite of the desired effect. Inimical, Biased, Discriminatory, Unjust	Harmless	Child experts fear the Executive's plans may prove counterproductive .
37.	Credulity	A tendency to be too ready to believe that something is real or true. Gullibility, Naivety	Worldliness, Suspicion	Moneylenders prey upon their credulity and inexperience.
38.	Crippling	Causing a severe and almost insuperable problem. Debilitate, Incapacitate, Weaken, Enfeeble	Aid, Assist, Heal, Capacitate	The bomb attack dealt a crippling blow to tourism in the country.
39.	Curb	A check or restraint on something.	Release	She promised she would curb her temper.

		Restraint, Restriction, Check, Brake		
40.	Deftly	In a way that is neatly skilful and quick in movement. In a clever way. Adeptly, Cleverly, Dexterously	Inaptly, Awkwardly, Clumsily, Crudely	She deftly avoided answering his question.
41.	Despondency	Low spirits from loss of hope or courage; dejection. Discouragement	Cheerfulness	There is a general air of despondency about the state of our democracy
42.	Deterring	Discourage someone from doing something by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences. Put off, Dissuade, Warn, Caution	Encourage	Only a health problem would deter him from seeking re-election.
43.	Detrimental	Tending to cause harm. Harmful, Damaging, Injurious, Hurtful, Inimical, Deleterious	Benign, Beneficial	Recent policies have been detrimental to the interests of many old people.
44.	Dilemma	A situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives, especially ones that are equally undesirable. Quandary, Predicament, Difficulty, Problem, Conundrum	Solution, Retort	She faces the dilemma of disobeying her father or losing the man she loves.
45.	Discernible	Able to be discerned. Perceptible, Visible, Detectable, Noticeable, Observable	Imperceptible	There is no discernible reason why this should be the case.
46.	Discriminatory	Making or showing an unfair or prejudicial distinction between different categories of people or things, especially on the	Impartial, Fair	Business leaders must take a stand against discriminatory practices.

		grounds of race, age, or sex. Prejudicial, Biased, Preferential, Unfair, Unjust		
47.	Disentangled	Free (something or someone) from something that they are entangled with. Extricate, Extract, Free, Remove, Disengage, Untwine	Entangle, Snarl, Tangle	It took forever to disentangle the knot.
48.	Disquiet	A feeling of worry or unease. Anxiety, Distress	Calm	The leader's decline in popularity is causing disquiet among supporters.
49.	Dissemination	The action or fact of spreading something, especially information, widely. Spreading, Circulation, Distribution, Dispersal	Repress, Suppress, Stifle, Discouragement, Extirpate	One of the organization's aims is to disseminate information about the disease.
50.	Dissonance	Lack of agreement or harmony between people or things. Incongruity, Disparity, Discrepancy, Disagreement	Harmony, Similarity	However, the complex dissonances we have seen suggest otherwise.
51.	Earmarked	Designate funds or resources for a particular purpose. Set aside, Keep back, Appropriate		Five billion dollars of this year's budget is already earmarked for hospital improvements.
52.	Earnestly	With sincere and intense conviction. Seriously, Solemnly, Gravely, Soberly, Sincerely	Frivolous, Half-hearted	He hopes school officials will continue to work earnestly to ensure the rights of their minority students.
53.	Efficacious	Something inanimate or abstract successful in producing a desired or	Inefficacious	This treatment was efficacious in some cases.

		intended result; effective. Effective, Successful, Effectual, Productive, Fruitful		
54.	Efficacious	Something inanimate or abstract successful in producing a desired or intended result. Effective, Productive	Inefficacious	This treatment was efficacious in some cases.
55.	Efficacy	The ability to produce a desired or intended result. Effectiveness, Success	Inefficacy	There is little information on the efficacy of this treatment.
56.	Emaciation	The state of being abnormally thin or weak. Thinness	Obesity	There were pictures of emaciated children on the cover of the magazine.
57.	Emblematic	Serving as a symbol of a particular quality or concept. Symbolic, Representative, Demonstrative, Suggestive	Representational, Realistic	This case is emblematic of a larger problem.
58.	En Masse	In a group. All together.	Singly	The cabinet immediately resigned en masse .
59.	Envisage	Contemplate or conceive of as a possibility or a desirable future event. Foresee, Predict, Forecast, Foretell	Disregard, Ignore	Train fare increases of 15 percent are envisaged for the next year.
60.	Epidemiological	Relating to the branch of medicine which deals with the incidence, distribution, and control of diseases.		One of the lessons from the history of epidemiology is, first of all, there are things that in hindsight seem completely obvious.
61.	Espionage	The practise of spying or of using spies, typically by governments to		He was charged with several counts of espionage .

		obtain political and military information.		
		Spying		
62.	Exemplary	Serving as a desirable model. Very good, Perfect, Ideal, Faultless	Deplorable, Unworthy	His tact was exemplary , especially considering the circumstances.
63.	Extradite	Hand over (a person accused or convicted of a crime) to the jurisdiction of the foreign state in which the crime was committed. Deport, Hand-over, Repatriate, Expel	Hold, Keep	He will be extradited to Arizona from Florida.
64.	Festering	If an argument or bad feeling festers, it continues so that feelings of hate or lack of satisfaction increase. Persisting & growing increasingly bitter over time. Breakdown, Decay, Rot	Growth, Maturation, Ripening	It's better to express your anger than let it fester inside you.
65.	Formidable	Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable. Intimidating, Forbidding, Redoubtable, Daunting, Alarming	Comforting, Easy	She was once a political nonentity but has since won a formidable reputation as a determined campaigner.
66.	Fragile	Easily destroyed or threatened. Tenuous, Breakable, Frangible	Strong, Sound, Durable	You have a fragile grip on reality.
67.	Fraught	Causing or affected by anxiety or stress. Anxious, Worried, Upset, Distraught	Calm	From beginning to end, the airlift was fraught with risks.

68.	Goading	Provoke or annoy (someone) so as to stimulate an action or reaction. Spur, Prick, Sting, Prod		She seemed determined to goad him into a fight.
69.	Hark	To pay close attention. Listen	Be deaf to, Ignore, Neglect, Scorn, Slight.	I do not believe in harking back to the past; what we need is a new attitude.
70.	Harried	Feeling strained as a result of having demands persistently made on one; harassed. Badgered, Bedevilled, Haggled, Frustrated	Delighted, Pleased, Content, Happy, Satisfied	Harried reporters are frequently forced to invent what they cannot find out.
71.	Heinous	A person or wrongful act, especially a crime utterly odious or wicked. Odious, Wicked, Evil, Atrocious, Monstrous	Admirable	The criminal received the death penalty for his heinous crime.
72.	Hobnobbing	Mix socially, especially with those of perceived higher social status. Associate, Mix, Fraternize, Socialize, Go around		She often has her picture in the papers, hobnobbing with the rich and famous.
73.	Hostile	Showing or feeling opposition or dislike; unfriendly. Antagonistic, Aggressive, Confrontational	Friendly, Mild	The president had a hostile reception in Ohio this morning.
74.	Imminent	About to happen. Impending, At hand, Close, Near	Remote	For a man in imminent danger of losing his job, he appeared quite unruffled.
75.	Immunogenic	Relating to or denoting substances able to produce an immune response.		After many attempts, one antigen was found to be immunogenic .
76.	Impeccable	In accordance with the highest standards.	Imperfect, Sinful	His English is impeccable .

		Faultless, Flawless, Spotless		
77.	Impede	Delay or prevent someone or something by obstructing them; hinder. Handicap, Delay	Facilitate	He claims that economic growth is being impeded by government regulations.
78.	Imperative	Of vital importance. Crucial	Unimportant, Optional	The president said it was imperative that the release of all hostages be secured.
79.	Impoverish	Make (a person or area) poor. Weaken, Sap, Exhaust, Drain, Empty	Strengthen, Enrich, Rich, Fertile	The soil was impoverished by annual burning.
80.	Impunity	Exemption from punishment or freedom from the injurious consequences of an action. Exemption, Immunity	Liability, Responsibility	Criminal gangs are terrorizing the city with apparent impunity .
81.	Incessant	Something regarded as unpleasant continuing without pause or interruption. Ceaseless, Unceasing, Constant, Continual, Unabating	Intermittent, Occasional	The region endured weeks of incessant rain.
82.	Incoherent	Spoken or written language expressed in an incomprehensible or confusing way. Unclear, Confused, Muddled	Coherent, Lucid, Intelligible	He screamed some incoherent threat.
83.	Indentured	Relating to an official agreement that someone will work for someone else for a length of time, especially in order to learn a job.		He served an indentured apprenticeship in mechanical engineering.
84.	Ineptitude	Lack of skill or ability. Incompetence	Ability, Adequacy,	The team's poor play is being blamed on the ineptitude of the coaching staff.

			Capability, Capacity	
85.	Inevitable	Certain to happen. Unavoidable, Inescapable	Avoidable, Uncertain	The endless public appearances are an inevitable part of an election campaign.
86.	Inexplicable	Unable to be explained or accounted for. Unaccountable, Unexplainable, Incomprehensible, Unfathomable	Understandable	For some inexplicable reason, her mind went completely blank.
87.	Infirm	Not physically or mentally strong, especially through age or illness. Frail, Weak, Feeble, Enfeebled, Weakly	Strong, Healthy	She was too elderly and infirm to remain at home.
88.	Innuendo	An allusive or oblique remark or hint, typically a suggestive or disparaging one. Insinuation, Implication, Hint, Suggestion, Intimation, Overtone	Evidence, Proof, Reality	His reputation has been damaged by innuendos about his drinking and gambling.
89.	Insistence	The fact or quality of insisting that something is the case or should be done. Demand, Command, Dictate, Instruction	Disavowal	He spoke with the great insistence of the need for reform.
90.	Invariably	In every case or on every occasion. Always, Every time	Sometimes, Never	The train is invariably late.
91.	Iteration	The repetition of a process or utterance. Version, Duplication, Reiteration, Repetition	Non-repetitive	Your constant iteration of the same piddling complaints is wearing thin.
92.	Lien	A right to keep possession of property belonging to another		They shall be entitled to a lien on any lot sold.

		person until a debt owed by that person is discharged. Charge, Claim		
93.	Litany	A tedious recital or repetitive series. Recital, Repetition, Enumeration, Account, Refrain		The manufacturers are reported to have received a litany of complaints from dissatisfied customers.
94.	Malicious	The desire to cause pain for the satisfaction of doing harm. Cattiness, Despite, Hatred, Malevolence	Devotion, Love, Amicability	The maliciousness of some Internet trolls led the editor to start moderating comments on the site.
95.	Meticulous	Showing great attention to detail. Very careful and precise. Careful, Conscientious, Diligent, Ultra-careful, Scrupulous	Careless, Sloppy, Slapdash	The designs are hand-glazed with meticulous care.
96.	Moorings	Established practice or stabilizing influence.		The wind was strong enough to tear the boat from its moorings .
97.	Morbid	Characterized by an abnormal and unhealthy interest in disturbing and unpleasant subjects, especially death and disease. Ghoulish, Macabre, Unhealthy, Gruesome, Grisly	Wholesome	His morbid fascination with the horrors of contemporary warfare.
98.	Nevertheless	In spite of that; notwithstanding. All the same. Nonetheless, Even so, However, But		I knew a lot about the subject already, but her talk was interesting nevertheless .

99.	Novel	New and original, not like anything seen before. Fresh, New, Original, Strange, Unaccustomed, Unfamiliar, Unheard of, Unknown, Unprecedented	Familiar, Hackneyed, Old, Time-honoured, Tired, Warmed-over	Keeping a sheep in the garden is a novel way of keeping the grass short!
100.	Oblivion	The state of being unaware or unconscious of what is happening around one. Unconsciousness, Insensibility, Stupor, Stupefaction	Consciousness, Awareness	They drank themselves into oblivion .
101.	Obscure	Not clearly expressed or easily understood. Abstruse, Recondite, Arcane, Esoteric	Clear, Plain	Official policy has changed, for reasons that remain obscure .
102.	Ostensibly	As appears or is stated to be true, though not necessarily so; apparently. Apparently, Seemingly	Genuinely, Really, Truly	The party secretary resigned, ostensibly from ill-health.
103.	Ouster	Ejection from a property, especially wrongful ejection. Deprivation of an inheritance. Expulsion	Welcoming, Retaining	The committee's chairperson is facing a possible ouster .
104.	Overt	Done or shown openly; plainly apparent. Undisguised, Unconcealed	Covert, Hidden	He shows no overt signs of his unhappiness.
105.	Palpable	Able to be touched or felt. Tangible, Perceptible, Noticeable	Imperceptible, Undetectable	The energy at each march was palpable —the exhilaration of young people finding a collective voice.

106.	Panoply	An extensive or impressive collection. Array, Range, Collection		There is a whole panoply of remedies and drugs available to the modern doctor.
107.	Paramount	More important than anything else. Supreme	Last, Least	There are many priorities but reducing the budget deficit is paramount/is of paramount importance.
108.	Partisan	A strong supporter of a party, cause, or person. Follower, Adherent, Devotee, Champion	Impartial, Unbiased	News channels have become increasingly partisan .
109.	Perplexing	Completely baffling. Very puzzling.	Unquestioned, Manifest, Clear, Evident, Straightforward	They find the company's attitude perplexing and unreasonable.
110.	Petulant	A person or their manner) childishly sulky or bad-tempered. Peevish, Bad-tempered, ill-tempered	Good-humoured, Easy-going, Affable	He was moody and petulant .
111.	Politburo	The principal policy-making and executive committee of a Communist party.		The outbreak has been tentatively contained but has not reached a turning point yet, according to China Central Television, which cited a politburo meeting.
112.	Precise	Marked by exactness and accuracy of expression or detail. Exact, Accurate, Correct, Pinpoint	Imprecise, Inaccurate	There was a good turnout for the meeting – twelve of us to be precise .
113.	Probity	The quality of having strong moral principles; honesty and decency. Integrity, Honesty, Uprightness	Badness, Evil, Evildoing, Immorality, Iniquity	Her probity and integrity are beyond question.
114.	Proclivity	A tendency to choose or do something regularly. An inclination or predisposition towards a particular thing.	Aversion, Disinclination, Indisposition	Anna was very worried about her son going to kindergarten because he has a proclivity to misbehave

		Liking, Inclination, Tendency, Leaning, Disposition		
115.	Procrastination	The action of delaying or postponing something. Dithering, Delaying tactics, Stalling, Temporizing	Punctual, Expedite	I know I've got to deal with the problem at some point – I'm just procrastinating .
116.	Puerile	Childishly silly and immature. Childish, Immature, Infantile, Juvenile, Babyish	Mature, Sensible	I find his sense of humour rather puerile .
117.	Rambling	Writing or speech lengthy and confused or inconsequential. Digressive, Prolix, Wordy	Concise, Pithy	He gave a long rambling speech.
118.	Rampant	Something unwelcome flourishing or spreading unchecked. Uncontrolled, Unrestrained, Unchecked, Unbridled,	Controlled, Under controlled	Rampant inflation means that our wage increases soon become worth nothing.
119.	Reciprocate	Respond to (a gesture or action) by making a corresponding one. Recompense, Repay, Requite	Absolve, Acquit, Excuse, Forget, Forgive, Neglect	Sadly, my feelings for him were not reciprocated .
120.	Recuse	Challenge (a judge, prosecutor, or juror) as unqualified to perform legal duties because of a potential conflict of interest or lack of impartiality. A Judge excuse oneself from a case because of a potential conflict of interest or lack of impartiality		He will have to recuse himself from that hearing.

121.	Resolve	Settle or find a solution to a problem or contentious matter. Sort out, Solve	Indecision	Have you resolved the problem of transport yet?
122.	Resumption	the action of beginning something again after a pause or interruption. Restart, Reopen	Suspension, Abandonment	The president called for an immediate ceasefire and a resumption of negotiations between the two sides.
123.	Retaliate	Make an attack in return for a similar attack. Fight back, Strike back, Respond, React	Turn the other cheek	They used their abilities to retaliate the injury.
124.	Retribution	A punishment inflicted on someone as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act. Penalty, Nemesis, Fate, Doom, Payback, Requit	Lenity, Forgiveness, Sympathy, Leniency, Grace, Pity	They fled because they feared retribution for the genocide.
125.	Retrograde	Directed or moving backwards. Backwards, Reverse, Rearward	Forward	He said it would be a retrograde step to remove single parent benefits.
126.	Reverential	Of the nature of, due to, or characterized by reverence. Fear, Veneration, Awe	Irreverence	He opened the ancient book with reverential care.
127.	Robust	Strong and healthy. Vigorous, Sturdy, Powerful	Weak, Frail	He looks robust and healthy enough.
128.	Salvage	To try to make a bad situation better. Rescue, Retrieve, Recover	Abandon, Lose, Injure	After the fraud scandal, he had to make great efforts to salvage his reputation.
129.	Scramble	To compete with other people for something there is very little of.		She scrambled up the steep hillside and over the rocks.
130.	Scurrility	The quality or state of being scurrilous.	Moral, Discreet, Civil, Unoffending,	The disgust at his supposed scurrility will neither change his own

		Abuse, Billingsgate, Fulmination, Invective, Obloquy, Vitriol	Polite, Decent, Inoffensive	beliefs nor convince anybody else to join in opposition.
131.	Seroprevalence	The level of a pathogen in a population, as measured in blood serum.		Some local governments have done their own seroprevalence research.
132.	Setback	A reversal or check in progress. Problem, Difficulty, Issue, Hitch, Complication, Upset	Breakthrough, Step forward	This will be a serious setback for the peace process.
133.	Slumping	Undergo a sudden severe or prolonged fall in price, value, or amount. Plummet, Plunge, Tumble, Drop	Rise, Soar	The value of the property has slumped .
134.	Snowballed	Increase rapidly in size, intensity, or importance. Accelerate, Accumulate, Appreciate, Balloon	Contract, Decrease, Diminish, Dwindle	Problems snowball when early trouble signs are ignored.
135.	Sophistry	The use of clever but false arguments, especially with the intention of deceiving. Sophism, Casuistry, Quibbling, Equivocation	Honesty, Truth	The reasoning may be plausible, but it is no better than sophistry .
136.	Sordid	Involving immoral or dishonourable actions and motives; arousing moral distaste and contempt. Sleazy, Seedy, Unsavoury, Shoddy	High-mindedness, Respectable	There are lots of really sordid apartments in the city's poorer areas.
137.	Sovereignty	Supreme power or authority. Jurisdiction, Supremacy, Dominion, Power, Ascendancy	Subservience, Subjection, Dependence	Talks are being held about who should have sovereignty over the island.

138.	Spatial	Relating to or occupying space.		This task is designed to test children's spatial awareness.
139.	Spearhead	An individual or group chosen to lead an attack or movement. Forefront	End, Stop, Finish	Joe Walker will be spearheading our new marketing initiative.
140.	Speculation	The forming of a theory or conjecture without firm evidence. Conjecture, Theorizing, Hypothesizing, Supposition, Guesswork	Realization, Proof, Fact, Verification, Certainty	The book is just a lot of idle speculation about the future.
141.	Stagflation	Persistent high inflation combined with high unemployment and stagnant demand in a country's economy.		But the threat of stagflation — the term used to describe an economic slowdown coupled with rising prices — is real.
142.	Startling	Very surprising, astonishing, or remarkable. Surprising, Astonishing, Amazing	Predictable, Ordinary	He bore a startling likeness to their father.
143.	Straddle	To straddle something is also to be unable to decide which of two opinions about something is better, and so to partly support both opinions	Decisive	The president has tried to straddle the issue of political fund-raising.
144.	Stray	Move away aimlessly from a group or from the right course or place. Go astray, Drift, Get lost	Methodical, Non-random, Orderly, Organized, Regular, Systematic, Systematized	I think we have strayed too far from our original plan.
145.	Strident	A sound loud and harsh. Grating, Raucous, Rasping, Jarring, Loud	Soft, Dulcet	His voice had become increasingly strident .
146.	Surreal	Having the qualities of surrealism.	Realistic, Real	Reading a newspaper account of your ancestors' fleeing for their lives is a surreal pain.

		Bizarre, Unusual, Weird, Strange, Unbelievable, Fantastic		
147.	Surreptitiously	In a way that attempts to avoid notice or attention. Secretively, Clandestine, Stealthily	Open, Overt, Public	Mary surreptitiously slipped from the room.
148.	Tardiness	The quality or fact of being late. Lateness, Delay, Retardation	Punctuality, Timeliness	Forgive my tardiness , I had some very important business to attend to.
149.	Tranquillity	The quality or state of being tranquil. Calm	Boisterous, Clamorous, Clatter, Deafening	I love the tranquillity of the countryside.
150.	Transgress	Go beyond the limits of what is morally, socially, or legally acceptable. To break a law or moral rule. Misbehave, Err, lapse	Obey	Those are the rules, and anyone who transgresses will be severely punished.
151.	Transpire	A secret or something (unknown) come to be known. Be revealed	Conceal	It transpired that millions of dollars of debt had been hidden in a complex web of transactions.
152.	Unenviable	Difficult, undesirable, or unpleasant. Disagreeable, Unpleasant, Undesirable, Difficult	Enviably, Desirable	I had the unenviable task of cleaning up after the party.
153.	Uninhibited	Expressing one's feelings or thoughts unselfconsciously and without restraint. Unrestrained, Unrepressed, Abandoned	Inhibited, Controlled, Reserved, Repressed	She gave a loud, uninhibited laugh.
154.	Unprecedented	Never done or known before.	Normal, Common	The government took the unprecedented step of

		Unparalleled, Unequaled, Unmatched, Unrivalled		releasing confidential correspondence.
155.	Unrelenting	Not yielding in strength, severity, or determination. Implacable, Inflexible, Uncompromising, Unyielding,	Intermittent, Spasmodic	She will be remembered as an unrelenting opponent of racial discrimination.
156.	Unrestrained	Not restrained or restricted. Uncontrolled, Unconstrained, unrestricted, Unchecked	Restrained, Restricted	She was fined for driving with an unrestrained infant.
157.	Upend	Set or turn (something) on its end or upside down. Overturn		I upended the bucket to use as a stool.
158.	Valour	Great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle. Bravery, Courage, Fearlessness	Cowardice	He was promoted to the rank of major in recognition of his valour during the battle.
159.	Vet	Make a careful and critical examination of something. Screen, Assess, Evaluate, Appraise, Examine		During the war, the government vetted all news reports before they were published.
160.	Vitiate	Spoil or impair the quality or efficiency of. Destroy or impair the legal validity of		Development programmes have been vitiated by the rise in population.
161.	Wary	Feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems. Cautious, Careful, Circumspect, Chary, Alert	Unwary, Inattentive, Trustful	Dogs which have been mistreated often remain very wary of strangers.
162.	Wilting	to grow weak or faint. Languish	Thrive, Flourish	The crowd wilted in the heat.

163.	Zenith	The time at which something is most powerful or successful. Acme, Apex Apogee, Capstone, Climax, Crescendo	Bottom, Nadir, Rock bottom	She is at the zenith of her career as a dancer.
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