

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Word List - 30

maverickN. /rebel; nonconformist.

To the masculine literary establishment, George Sand with her insistence on wearing trousers and smoking cigars was clearly a maverick who fought her proper womanly role.

mawkishADJ. /mushy and gushy; icky-sticky sentimental; maudlin.

Whenever Gigi and her boyfriend would sigh and get all lovey-dovey, her little brother would shout, "Yuck!" protesting their *mawkish* behavior.

maximN. /proverb; a truth pithily stated.

Aesop's fables illustrate moral maxims.

meagerADJ. /scanty; inadequate.

Still hungry after his meager serving of porridge, Oliver Twist asked for a second helping.

meanderV. /wind or turn in its course.

Needing to stay close to a source of water, he followed every twist and turn of the stream as it *meandered* through the countryside.

meddlesomeADJ. /interfering.

He felt his marriage was suffering because of his *meddlesome* mother-in-law.

mediateV. /settle a dispute through the services of an outsider.

King Solomon was asked to *mediate* a dispute between two women, each of whom claimed to be the mother of the same child.

mediocreADJ. /ordinary; commonplace.

We were disappointed because he gave a rather *mediocre* performance in this role.

meditationN. /reflection; thought.

She reached her decision only after much *meditation*.

medleyN. /mixture.

To avoid boring dancers by playing any one tune for too long, bands may combine three or four tunes into a medley.

meekADJ. /quiet and obedient; spiritless.

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Can Lois Lane see through Superman's disguise and spot the superhero hiding behind the guise of meek, timorous Clark Kent? Mr. Barrett never expected his *meek* daughter would dare to defy him by eloping with her suitor.

melancholy ADJ. /gloomy; morose; blue.

To Eugene, stuck in his small town, a train whistle was a *melancholy* sound, for it made him think of all the places he would never get to see.

mellifluous ADJ. /sweetly or smoothly flowing; melodious.

Italian is a mellifluous language, especially suited to being sung.

membrane N. /thin soft sheet of animal or vegetable tissue.

Each individual section of an orange is covered with a thin, transparent *membrane*. membranous, ADJ.

memento N. /token; reminder.

Take this book as a memento of your visit.

menagerie N. /collection of wild animals.

Whenever the children run wild around the house, Mom shouts, "Calm down! I'm not running a menagerie!"

mendacious ADJ. /lying; habitually dishonest.

Distrusting Huck from the start, Miss Watson assumed he was *mendacious* and refused to believe a word he said.

mendicant N. /beggar.

"O noble sir, give alms to the poor," cried Aladdin, playing the *mendicant*.

menial ADJ. /suitable for servants; lowly; mean.

Her wicked stepmother forced Cinderella to *menial* tasks around the house while her ugly stepsisters lolled around painting their toenails.

mentor N. /teacher.

During this very trying period, she could not have had a better mentor, for the teacher was sympathetic and understanding.

mercenary ADJ. /interested in money or gain.

Andy's every act was prompted by mercenary motives: his first question was always "What's in it for me?"

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mercurialADJ. /capricious; changing; fickle.

Quick as quicksilver to change, he was mercurial innature and therefore unreliable.

mergerN. /combination (of two business corporations).

When the firm's president married thedirector of financial planning, the office joke was that it wasn't a marriage, it was a merger.

mesmerizeV. /hypnotize.

The incessant drone seemed to mesmerize him and place him in a trance.

metallurgicalADJ. /pertaining to the art of removing metals from ores.

During the course of hismetallurgical research, the scientist developed a steel alloy of tremendous strength.

metamorphosisN. /change of form; major transformation.

The metamorphosis of caterpillar to butterfly istypical of many such changes in animal life. metamorphose, V.

metaphorN. /implied comparison.

"He soared like an eagle" is an example of a simile; "He is an eagle in flight," a metaphor.

metaphysicalADJ. /pertaining to speculative philosophy.

The modern poets have gone back tothe fanciful poems of the *metaphysical* poets of the seventeenth century for many of their images.metaphysics, N.

methodicalADJ. /systematic.

An accountant must be *methodical* and maintain order among hisfinancial records.

meticulousADJ. /excessively careful; painstaking; scrupulous.

Martha Stewart was a meticuloushousekeeper, fussing about each and every detail that went into making up her perfect home.

metropolisN. /large city.

Every evening the terminal is filled with thousands of commuters going from thismetropolis to their homes in the suburbs.

mettleN. /courage; spirit.

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When challenged by the other horses in the race, the thoroughbred proved its *mettle* by its determination to hold the lead.

miasmaN. /swamp gas; heavy, vaporous atmosphere, often emanating from decaying matter; pervasive corrupting influence.

The smog hung over Victorian London like a dark cloud; noisome, reeking of decay, it was a visible miasma.

microcosmN. /small world; the world in miniature.

The small village community that Jane Austen depicts serves as a microcosm of English society in her time, for in this small world we see all the social classes meeting and mingling.

migrantADJ./changing its habitat; wandering.

These migrant birds return every spring. also N.

migratoryADJ. /wandering.

The return of the migratory birds to the northern sections of this country is a harbinger of spring. migrate, V.

milieuN. /environment; means of expression.

Surrounded by smooth preppies and arty bohemians, the country boy from Smalltown, USA, felt out of his milieu. Although he has produced excellent oil paintings and lithographs, his proper milieu is watercolor.

militantADJ. /combative; bellicose.

Although at this time he was advocating a policy of neutrality, one could usually find him adopting a more militant attitude. also N.

mimicryN. /imitation.

Her gift for mimicry was so great that her friends said that she should be in the theater.

mincingADJ. /affectedly dainty.

Yum-Yum walked across the stage with *mincing* steps.

minusculeADJ. /extremely small.

Why should I involve myself with a project with so minuscule a chance for success?

minuteADJ. /extremely small.

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The twins resembled one another closely; only minute differences set them apart.

minutiaeN. /petty details.

She would have liked to ignore the minutiae of daily living.

mirageN. /unreal reflection; optical illusion.

The lost prospector was fooled by a mirage in the desert.

mireV. /entangle; stick in swampy ground.

Their rear wheels became mired in mud.

mirthN. /merriment; laughter.

Sober Malvolio found Sir Toby's mirth improper.

misanthropenN. /one who hates mankind.

In Gulliver's Travels, Swift portrays an image of humanity as vile, degraded beasts; for this reason, various critics consider him a *misanthrope*.

misapprehensionN. /error; misunderstanding.

To avoid *misapprehension*, I am going to ask all of you to repeat the instructions I have given.

miscellanyN. /mixture of writings on various subjects.

This is an interesting miscellany of nineteenth-century prose and poetry.

mischanceN. /ill luck.

By *mischance*, he lost his week's salary.

misconceptionN. /mistaken idea.

"Sir, you are suffering from a *misconception*. I do not wish to marry you in the least!"

misconstrueV. /interpret incorrectly; misjudge.

She took the passage seriously rather than humorously because she *misconstrued* the author's ironic tone.

misdemeanorN. /minor crime.

The culprit pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor rather than face trial for a felony.

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miserly ADJ. /stingy; mean.

Transformed by his vision on Christmas Eve, mean old Scrooge ceased being miserly and became a generous, kind old man.

misgivings N. /doubts.

Hamlet described his misgivings to Horatio but decided to fence with Laertes despite his foreboding of evil.

mishap N. /accident.

With a little care you could have avoided this mishap.

misnomer N. /wrong name; incorrect designation.

His tyrannical conduct proved to all that his nickname, King Eric the Just, was a misnomer.

misrepresent V. / give a false or incorrect impression, often deliberately; serve unsatisfactorily as a representative.

In his job application, Milton misrepresented his academic background; he was fired when his employers discovered the truth. The reformers accused Senator Gunbucks of misrepresenting his constituents and claimed he took bribes from the NRA.