

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING -ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Word List 33

obsolete ADJ. //no longer useful; outmoded; antiquated.

The invention of the pocket calculator made the slide rule used by generations of engineers *obsolete*.

obstetrician N. //physician specializing in delivery of babies.

In modern times, the delivery of children has passed from the midwife to the more scientifically trained *obstetrician*,

obstinate ADJ. //stubborn; hard to control or treat.

We tried to persuade him to give up smoking but he was *obstinate* and refused to change. Blackberry stickers are the most *obstinate* weeds I know: once established in a yard, they're extremely hard to root out. *obstinacy*, N.

obstreperous ADJ. //boisterous; noisy.

What do you do when an *obstreperous* horde of drunken policemen goes carousing through your hotel, crashing into potted plants and singing vulgar songs?

obtrude V. //push (oneself or one's ideas) forward or intrude; butt in;

stick out or extrude. Because Fanny was reluctant to *obtrude* her opinions about child-raising upon her daughter-in-law, she kept a close watch on her tongue. *obtrusive*, ADJ.

obtuse ADJ. //blunt; stupid.

What can you do with somebody who's so *obtuse* that he can't even tell that you're insulting him?

obviate V. //make unnecessary;

get rid of. I hope this contribution will *obviate* any need for further collections of funds.

odious ADJ. //hateful; vile.

Cinderella's ugly stepsisters had the *odious* habit of popping their zits in public.

odium N. //detestation; hatefulness; disrepute.

Prince Charming could not express the *odium* he felt toward Cinderella's stepsisters because of their mistreatment of poor Cinderella.

odorous ADJ. //having an odor.

This variety of hybrid tea rose is more *odorous* than the one you have in your garden.

odyssey N. //long, eventful journey.

The refugee's journey from Cambodia was a terrifying *odyssey*.

offensive ADJ. //attacking; insulting;

distasteful. Getting into street brawls is no minor matter for professional boxers, who are required by law to restrict their *offensive* impulses to the ring.

offhand ADJ. //casual; done without prior thought.

Expecting to be treated with due propriety by her hosts, Great-Aunt Maud was offended by their *offhand* manner.

officious ADJ. //meddlesome;

excessively pushy in offering one's services. Judy wanted to look over the new computer models on her own, but the *officious* salesman kept on butting in with "helpful" advice until she was ready to walk out of the store.

ogle V. //look at amorously; make eyes at.

At the coffee house, Walter was too shy to *ogle* the pretty girls openly; instead, he peeked out at them from behind a rubber plant.

olfactory ADJ. //concerning the sense of smell.

A wine taster must have a discriminating palate and a keen *olfactory* sense, for a good wine appeals both to the taste buds and to the nose.

oligarchy N. //government by a privileged few.

One small clique ran the student council: what had been intended as a democratic governing body had turned into an *oligarchy*.

ominous ADJ. //threatening.

Those clouds are *ominous*; they suggest a severe storm is on the way.

omnipotent ADJ. //all-powerful.

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The monarch regarded himself as *omnipotent* and responsible to no one for his acts.

omnipresent ADJ. //universally present;
ubiquitous. On Christmas Eve, Santa Claus is *omnipresent*.

omniscient ADJ. //all-knowing.
I do not pretend to be *omniscient*, but I am positive about this fact.

omnivorous ADJ. //eating both plant and animal food;
devouring everything. Some animals, including man, are *omnivorous* and eat both meat and vegetables; others are either carnivorous or herbivorous.

onerous ADJ. //burdensome.
He asked for an assistant because his work load was too onerous.

onset N. //beginning; attack.
Caught unprepared by the sudden onset of the storm, we rushed around the house closing windows and bringing the garden furniture into shelter. Caught unprepared by the enemy *onset*, the troops scrambled to take shelter.

onus N. //burden; responsibility.
The emperor was spared the onus of signing the surrender papers; instead, he relegated the assignment to his generals.

opalescent ADJ. //iridescent; lustrous.
The oil slick on the water had an *opalescent*, rainbow-like sheen.

opaque ADJ. //dark; not transparent.
The *opaque* window shade kept the sunlight out of the room. opacity, N.

opiate N. //medicine to induce sleep or deaden pain;
something that relieves emotions or causes inaction. To say that religion is the opiate of the people is to condemn religion as a drug that keeps the people quiet and submissive to those in power.

opportune ADJ. //timely; well-chosen.
Sally, looked at her father struggling to balance his checkbook; clearly this would not be an opportune moment to ask him for a raise in her allowance.

opportunist N. //individual who sacrifices principles for expediency by taking advantage of circumstances.
Joe is such an opportunist that he tripled the price of bottled water at his store as soon as the earthquake struck. Because it can break water pipes, an earthquake is, to most people, a disaster; to Joe, it was an opportunity.

optician N. //maker and seller of eyeglasses.
The patient took the prescription given him by his oculist} o the optician.

optimist N. //person who looks on the good side.
The pessimist says the glass is half-empty; the optimist says it is half-full.

optimum ADJ. //most favorable.
If you wait for the optimum moment to act, you may never begin your project. also N.

optional ADJ. //not obligatory; left to one's choice.
Most colleges require applicants to submit SAT I scores; at some colleges, however, submitting SAT I scores is optional.

opulence N. //extreme wealth; luxuriousness; abundance.
The glitter and *opulence* of the ballroom took Cinderella's breath away. opulent, ADJ.

opus N. //work
. Although many critics hailed his Fifth Symphony as his major work, he did not regard it as his major opus.

oracular ADJ. //prophetic; uttered as if with divine authority;
mysterious or ambiguous. Like many others who sought divine guidance from the oracle at Delphi, Oedipus could

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not understand the enigmatic oracular warning he received.

orator *n.* // public speaker.

The abolitionist Frederick Douglass was a brilliant orator whose speeches brought home to his audience the evils of slavery.

ordain *v.* // decree or command; grant holy orders; predestine.

The king *ordained* that no foreigner should be allowed to enter the city. The Bishop of Michigan *ordained* David a deacon in the Episcopal Church. The young lovers felt that fate had *ordained* their meeting.

ordeal *n.* // severe trial or affliction.

June was so painfully shy that it was an *ordeal* for her to speak up when the teacher called on her in class.

ordinance *n.* // decree.

Passing a red light is a violation of a city *ordinance*.

ordination *n.* // ceremony making someone a minister.

At the young priest's *ordination*, the members of the congregation presented him with a set of vestments. *ordain, v.*

orgy *n.* // wild, drunken revelry; unrestrained indulgence in a tendency.

The Roman emperor's orgies were far wilder than the toga party in the movie *Animal House*. When her income tax refund check finally arrived, Sally indulged in an *orgy* of shopping.

orient *v.* // get one's bearings;

adjust. Philip spent his first day in Denver *orienting* himself to the city.

orientation *n.* // act of finding oneself in society.

Freshman *orientation* provides the incoming students with an opportunity to learn about their new environment and their place in it.

ornate *adj.* // excessively or elaborately decorated.

With its elaborately carved, convoluted lines, furniture of the Baroque period was highly *ornate*.

ornithologist *n.* // scientific student of birds.

Audubon's drawings of American bird life have been of interest not only to the *ornithologists* but also to the general public.

ornithology *n.* // study of birds.

Audubon's studies of American birds greatly influenced the course of *ornithology*.

orthodox *adj.* // traditional; conservative in belief.

Faced with a problem, he preferred to take an *orthodox* approach rather than shock anyone. *orthodoxy, n.*

oscillate *v.* // vibrate pendulumlike;

waver. It is interesting to note how public opinion *oscillates* between the extremes of optimism and pessimism.

ossify *v.* // change or harden into bone.

When he called his opponent a "bonehead," he implied that his adversary's brain had *ossified* to the point that he was incapable of clear thinking.

ostensible *adj.* // apparent; professed; pretended.

Although the *ostensible* purpose of this expedition is to discover new lands, we are really interested in finding new markets for our products.

ostentatious *adj.* // showy; pretentious; trying to attract attention.

Donald Trump's latest casino in Atlantic City is the most *ostentatious* gambling palace in the East: it easily outglitters its competitors. *ostentation, n.*

ostracize *v.* // exclude from public favor; ban.

As soon as the newspapers carried the story of his connection with the criminals, his friends began to *ostracize* him. *ostracism, n.*

oust *v.* // expel; drive out.

The world wondered if Aquino would be able to *oust* Marcos from office. *ouster, n.*

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outlandish ADJ. //bizarre; peculiar; unconventional.

The eccentric professor who engages in markedly *outlandish* behavior is a stock figure in novels with an academic setting.

outmoded ADJ. //longer stylish; old-fashioned.

Unconcerned about keeping in style, Lenore was perfectly happy to wear *outmoded* clothes as long as they were clean and unfrayed.

outskirts N. //fringes; outer borders.

We lived, not in central London, but in one of those peripheral suburbs that spring up on the outskirts of a great city.

outspoken ADJ. //candid; blunt.

The candidate was too *outspoken* to be a successful politician; he had not yet learned to weigh his words carefully.

outstrip V. //surpass; outdo.

Jesse Owens easily *outstripped* his white competitors to win the gold medal at the Olympic Games.

outwit V. //outsmart; trick.

By disguising himself as an old woman, Holmes was able to outwit his pursuers and escape capture.

ovation N. //enthusiastic applause.

When the popular tenor Placido Domingo came on stage in the first act of *La Boheme*, he was greeted by a tremendous ovation.

overbearing ADJ. //bossy and arrogant; decisively important.

Certain of her own importance, and of the unimportance of everyone else, Lady Bracknell was intolerably *overbearing* in her manner. "In choosing a husband," she said, "good birth is of *overbearing* importance; compared to that, neither wealth nor talent signifies."

overt ADJ. //open to view.

According to the United States Constitution, a person must commit an overt act before he may be tried for treason.

overwrought ADJ. //extremely agitated; hysterical.

When Kate heard the news of the sudden tragedy, she became too *overwrought* to work and had to leave the office early.

pachyderm N. /) //thick-skinned animal.

The elephant is probably the best-known *pachyderm*.

pacifist N. //one opposed to force; antimilitarist.

Shooting his way through the jungle, Rambo was clearly not a pacifist.