

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST-34

pacify V. soothe; make calm or quiet; subdue.

Dentists criticize the practice of giving fussy children sweets to pacify them.

pact N. / agreement; treaty. Tweedledum and Tweedledee made a pact not to quarrel anymore.

paean N. /song of praise or joy.

Paeans celebrating the victory filled the air.

painstaking ADJ. showing hard work; taking-Dreat care

. The new high-frequency word list is the result of *painstaking* efforts on the part of our research staff.

palatable ADJ. agreeable; pleasing to the taste.

Neither Jack's underbaked opinions nor his overcooked casseroles were palatable to Jill.

paleontology N. study of prehistoric life.

The *paleontology* instructor had a superb collection of fossils.

palette N. / board on which painter mixes pigments.

At the present time, art supply stores are selling a paper *palette* that may be discarded after use.

pall V. / /grow tiresome.

The study of word lists can eventually pall and put one to sleep.

palliate V. / /lessen the violence of (a disease); alleviate;

moderate intensity; gloss over with excuses. Not

content merely to palliate the patient's sores and cankers, the researcher sought a means of wiping

out the disease. palliative, **ADJ.**

pallid ADJ. / /pale; wan.

Because his job required that he work at night and sleep during the day, he had an exceptionally pallid complexion.

palpable ADJ. / /tangible; easily perceptible; unmistakable.

The patient's enlarged spleen was

palpable: even the first year medical student could feel it.

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST-34

palpitate V. / /throb; flutter.

As he became excited, his heart began to palpitate more and more erratically.

paltry ADJ. //insignificant; petty; trifling. One hundred dollars for a genuine imitation Rolex watch! Lady, this is a paltry sum to pay for such a high-class piece of jewelry.

pan V. / /criticize harshly. Hoping for a rave review of his new show, the playwright was miserable when the critics *panned* it unanimously.

panacea N. //cure-all; remedy for all diseases.

The rich youth cynically declared that the panacea for all speeding tickets was a big enough bribe.

panache N. / /flair; flamboyance.

Many performers imitate Noel Coward, but few have his *panache* and sense of style.

pandemic ADJ. /widespread;

affecting the majority of people. They feared the AIDS epidemic would soon reach *pandemic* proportions.

pandemonium N. / /wild tumult.

When the ships collided in the harbor, pandemonium broke out among the passengers.

pander V. / /cater to the low desires of others.

The reviewer accused the makers of *Lethal* Weapon of pandering to the masses' taste for violence.

panegyric N. /formal praise. Blushing at all the praise heaped upon him by the speakers, the modest hero said, "I don't deserve such panegyrics."

panoramic ADJ. /related to an unobstructed and comprehensive view. On a clear day, from the top of the World Trade Center you can get a panoramic view of New York City and parts of New Jersey and Long Island. panorama, N.

pantomime N. /acting without dialogue. Because he worked in pantomime, the clown could be understood

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST-34

wherever he appeared. also **V.**

papyrus N. // **ancient paper made from stem of papyrus plant.**

The ancient Egyptians were among the first to write on papyrus.

parable N. // **short, simple story teaching a moral.**

Let us apply to our own conduct the lesson that this *parable* teaches.

paradigm N. // **model; example; pattern.**

Pavlov's experiment in which he trains a dog to salivate on hearing a bell is a paradigm of the conditioned-response experiment in behavioral psychology.

Barron's *How to Prepare for College Entrance Examinations* was a paradigm for all the SAT-prep books that followed.

paradox N. // **something apparently contradictory in nature;**

statement that looks false but is actually correct. Richard presents a bit of a paradox, for he is a card-carrying member of both the National Rifle Association and the relatively pacifist American Civil Liberties Union.

paragon N. // **model of perfection.**

Her fellow students disliked Lavinia because Miss Minchin always pointed her out as a paragon of virtue.

parallelism N. // **state of being parallel; similarity.**

Although the twins were separated at birth and grew up in different adoptive families, a striking parallelism exists between their lives.

paramount ADJ // **foremost in importance; supreme.**

Proper nutrition and hygiene are of paramount importance in adolescent development and growth.

paranoia N. // **psychosis marked by delusions of grandeur or persecution.**

Suffering from paranoia, Don claimed everyone was out to get him; ironically, his claim was accurate: even *parano ids* have enemies.

paraphernalia N. // **equipment; odds and ends.**

His desk was cluttered with paper,

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST-34

pen, ink, dictionary and other *paraphernalia* of the writing craft.

paraphrase V. / /restate a passage in one's own words while retaining thought of author

. In 250

words or less, paraphrase this article. also **N.**

parasite N. / animal or plant living on another; toady; sycophant.

The tapeworm is an example of

the kind of parasite that may infest the human body.

parched ADJ. / /extremely dry; very thirsty.

The *parched* desert landscape seemed hostile to life.

pariah N. / /social outcast.

If everyone ostracized singer Mariah Carey, would she then be Mariah the pariah?

parity N. / /equality in status or amount; close resemblance.

Unfortunately, some doubt

exists whether women's salaries will ever achieve parity with men's.

parochial ADJ. / /narrow in outlook; provincial;

related to parishes. Although Jane Austen sets her

novels in small rural communities, her concerns are universal, not parochial,

parody N. / humorous imitation; spoof; takeoff; travesty.

The show *Forbidden Broadway* presents

parodies spoofing the year's new productions playing on Broadway.

paroxysm N. //fit or attack of pain, laughter, rage.

When he heard of his son's

misdeeds, he was seized by a paroxysm of rage.

parry V. //ward off a blow; deflect.

Unwilling to injure his opponent in such a pointless clash, D'Artagnan

simply tried to parry his rival's thrusts. What fun it was to watch Katherine Hepburn and Spencer

Tracy parry each other's verbal thrusts in their classic screwball comedies!

parsimony N. / stinginess; excessive frugality.

Furious because her father wouldn't let her buy out the clothing store, Annie accused him of parsimony.

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST-34

partial ADJ. / /incomplete; having a liking for something.

In this issue we have published only a partial list of contributors because we lack space to acknowledge everyone. I am extremely partial to chocolate eclairs.

partiality N. / /inclination; bias.

As a judge, not only must I be unbiased, but I must also avoid any evidence of partiality when I award the prize.

partisan ADJ. / /one-sided; prejudiced; committed to a party.

On certain issues of principle, she refused to take a partisan stand, but let her conscience be her guide. Rather than joining forces to solve our nation's problems, the Democrats and Republicans spend their time on partisan struggles. also **N.**

partition V. /divide into parts.

Before their second daughter was born, Jason and Lizzie decided each child needed a room of her own, and so they *partitioned* a large bedroom into two small but separate rooms. also **N.**

passive ADJ. / not active; acted upon.

Mahatma Gandhi urged his followers to pursue a program of passive resistance as he felt that it was more effective than violence and acts of terrorism.

passport N. / /legal document identifying the bearer as a citizen of a country and allowing him or her to travel abroad. In arranging your first trip abroad, be sure to allow yourself enough time to apply for and receive your passport you won't be allowed to travel without one.

pastiche N. / /imitation of another's style in musical composition or in writing.

We cannot even say that her music is a pastiche of this composer or that; it is, rather, reminiscent of many musicians.

pastoral ADJ. /rural.

In these stories of pastoral life, we find an understanding of the daily tasks of country folk.

patent ADJ. / /open for the public to read; obvious.

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST-34

It was patent to everyone that the witness spoke the truth. also **N.**

pathetic ADJ /causing sadness, compassion, pity; touching

. Everyone in the auditorium was weeping by the time he finished his pathetic tale about the orphaned boy.

pathological ADJ. / /related to the study of disease; diseased or markedly abnormal.

Jerome's pathological fear of germs led him to wash his hands a hundred times a day. pathology, **N.**

pathos N. /tender sorrow; pity;

quality in art or literature that produces these feelings. The quiet tone of pathos that ran through the novel never degenerated into the maudlin or the overly sentimental.

patina N. / /green crust on old bronze works

; tone slowly taken by varnished painting. Judging by the patina on this bronze statue, we can conclude that this is the work of a medieval artist.

patriarch N. //father and ruler of a family or tribe.

In many primitive tribes, the leader and lawmaker was the patriarch.

patrician ADJ. / /noble; aristocratic.

We greatly admired her well-bred, patrician elegance. also **N.**

patronize V. / /support; act superior toward;

be a customer of. Penniless artists hope to find some wealthy art-lover who *will patronize* them. If some condescending wine steward *patronized* me because he saw I knew nothing about fine wine, I'd refuse to *patronize* his restaurant.

paucity N. / /scarcity.

They closed the restaurant because the *paucity* of customers made it uneconomical to operate.

pauper N. / /very poor person.

Though Widow Brown was living on a reduced income, she was by no means a *pauper*.

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST-34

peccadillo N /slight offense

. When Peter Piper picked a peck of Polly Potter's pickles, did Pete commit a major crime or just a *peccadillo*?

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BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING