

# BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING -ENGLISH VOCABULARY

## Word List 35

**pecuniary** ADJ. //pertaining to money.

Seldom earning enough to cover their expenses, folk dance teachers work because they love dancing, not because they expect any *pecuniary* reward.

**pedagogy** N. //teaching; art of education.

Though Maria Montessori gained fame for her innovations in *pedagogy*, it took years before her teaching techniques were common practice in American schools.

**pedant** N. //scholar who overemphasizes book learning or technicalities.

Her insistence that the book be memorized marked the teacher as a *pedant* rather than a scholar.

**pedantic** ADJ. //showing off learning; bookish.

Leavening his decisions with humorous, down-to-earth anecdotes, Judge Walker was not at all the *pedantic* legal scholar. *pedant*, *pedantry*, N.

**pedestrian** ADJ. //ordinary; unimaginative.

Unintentionally boring, he wrote page after page of *pedestrian* prose.

**pediatrician** N. //expert in children's diseases.

The family doctor advised the parents to consult a *pediatrician* about their child's ailment.

**peerless** ADJ. //having no equal; incomparable.

The reigning operatic tenor of his generation, to his admirers Luciano Pavarotti was peerless: no one could compare with him.

**pejorative** ADJ. //negative in connotation; having a belittling effect.

Instead of criticizing Clinton's policies, the Republicans made *pejorative* remarks about his character.

**pellucid** ADJ. //transparent; limpid; easy to understand.

After reading these stodgy philosophers, I find Bertrand Russell's *pellucid* style very enjoyable.

**penchant** N. //strong inclination; liking.

Dave has a *penchant* for taking risks: one semester he went steady with three girls, two of whom were stars on the school karate team.

**pendant** N. //ornament (hanging from a necklace, etc.)

The grateful team presented the coach with a silver chain and *pendant* engraved with the school's motto.

**penitent** ADJ. //repentant.

When he realized the enormity of his crime, he became remorseful and penitent, also N.

**pensive** ADJ. //dreamily thoughtful; thoughtful with a hint of sadness; contemplative.

The *pensive* lover gazed at the portrait of his beloved and deeply sighed.

**penury** N. //severe poverty; stinginess.

When his pension fund failed, George feared he would end his days in penury. He became such a penny pincher that he turned into a closefisted, penurious miser.

**perceptive** ADJ. //insightful; aware; wise.

Although Maud was a generally perceptive critic, she had her blind spots: she could never see flaws in the work of her friends.

**percussion** ADJ. //striking one object against another sharply.

The drum is a percussion instrument. also N.

**perdition** N. //damnation; complete ruin. Praying for salvation,

young Steven Daedalus feared he was damned to eternal *perdition*.

**peregrination** N. //journey.

Auntie Mame was a world traveler whose *peregrinations* took her from Tijuana to Timbuctoo.

**peremptory** ADJ. //demanding and leaving no choice.

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From Jack's *peremptory* knock on the door, Jill could tell he would not give up until she let him in.

**perennial** *n.* // something that is continuing or recurrent.

These plants are hardy *perennials* and will bloom for many years. also *ADJ.*

**perfidious** *ADJ.* // treacherous; disloyal.

When Caesar realized that Brutus had betrayed him, he reproached his perfidious friend. *perfidy, n.*

**perforate** *v.* // pierce; put a hole through.

Before you can open the aspirin bottle, you must first perforate the plastic safety seal that covers the cap.

**perfunctory** *ADJ.* // superficial; not thorough; lacking interest, care, or enthusiasm.

The auditor's *perfunctory* inspection of the books overlooked many errors. Giving the tabletop only a *perfunctory* swipe with her dust cloth, Betty promised herself she'd clean it more thoroughly tomorrow.

**perimeter** *n.* // outer boundary.

To find the perimeter of any quadrilateral, we add the lengths of the four sides.

**peripheral** *ADJ.* // marginal; outer.

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

**periphery** *n.* // edge, especially of a round surface.

He sensed that there was something just beyond the *periphery* of his vision.

**perjury** *n.* // false testimony while under oath.

Rather than lie under oath and perhaps be indicted for *perjury*, the witness chose to take the Fifth Amendment, refusing to answer any questions on the grounds that he might incriminate himself.

**permeable** *ADJ.* // penetrable; porous; allowing liquids or gas to pass through.

If your jogging clothes weren't made out of *permeable* fabric, you'd drown in your own perspiration (figuratively speaking).

**permeate** *v.* // pass through; spread.

The odor of frying onions *permeated* the air.

**pernicious** *ADJ.* // very destructive.

Crack cocaine has had a *pernicious* effect on urban society: it has destroyed families, turned children into drug dealers, and increased the spread of violent crimes.

**perpetrate** *v.* // commit an offense.

Only an insane person could perpetrate such a horrible crime.

**perpetual** *ADJ.* // everlasting.

Ponce de Leon hoped to find the legendary fountain of *perpetual* youth.

**perpetuate** *v.* // make something last; preserve from extinction.

Some critics attack *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* because they believe Twain's book perpetuates a false image of Blacks in this country.

**perquisite** *n.* // any gain above stipulated salary.

The *perquisites* attached to this job make it even more attractive than the salary indicates.

**persona** *n.* // public personality or facade.

Offstage the comedian was a sullen, irritable grumbler, a far cry from his ever-cheerful adopted stage *persona*.

**personable** *ADJ.* // attractive.

The man I am seeking to fill this position must be *personable* since he will be representing us before the public.

**perspicacious** *ADJ.* // having insight; penetrating; astute.

The brilliant lawyer was known for his *perspicacious* deductions. *perspicacity, n.*

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**pert** ADJ. //impertinent; forward.

I think your *pert* and impudent remarks call for an apology.

**pertinacious** ADJ. //stubborn; persistent.

He is bound to succeed because his *pertinacious* nature will not permit him to quit.

**pertinent** ADJ. //To the point; relevant.

Virginia Woolf's words on women's rights are as pertinent today as they were when she wrote them nearly a century ago.

**perturb** V. //disturb greatly.

The thought that electricity might be leaking out of the empty light bulb sockets *perturbed* my aunt so much that at night she crept about the house screwing fresh bulbs in the vacant spots. *perturbation*, N.

**peruse** V. //read with care.

After the conflagration that burned down her house, Joan closely *perused* her home insurance policy to discover exactly what benefits her coverage provided her. *perusal*, N.

**pervasive** ADJ. //pervading; spread throughout every part.

Despite airing them for several hours, Martha could not rid her clothes of the pervasive odor of mothballs that clung to them. *pervade*, V.

**perverse** ADJ. //stubbornly wrongheaded; wicked and perverted.

When Jack was in a *perverse* mood, he would do the opposite of whatever Jill asked him. When Hannibal Lecter was in a *perverse* mood, he ate the flesh of his victims. Jack acted out of perversity. Hannibal's act proved his perversion.

**pessimism** N. //belief that life is basically bad or evil; gloominess.

Considering how well you have done in the course so far, you have no real reason for such *pessimism* about your final grade.

**petrify** V. //turn to stone.

His sudden and unexpected appearance seemed to *petrify* her.

**petty** ADJ. //trivial; unimportant; very small.

She had no major complaints to make about his work, only a few petty quibbles that were almost too minor to state.

**petulant** ADJ. //touchy; peevish.

If you'd had hardly any sleep for three nights and people kept phoning and waking you up, you'd sound pretty *petulant*, too.

**phenomena** N. //observable facts; subjects of scientific investigation.

We kept careful records of the *phenomena* we noted in the course of these experiments.

**philanderer** N. //faithless lover;

flirt. Swearing he had never so much as looked at another woman, Ralph assured Alice he was no *philanderer*.