

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Word List - 38

propitious ADJ. /favorable; fortunate; advantageous.

Chloe consulted her horoscope to see whether Tuesday would be a propitious day to dump her boyfriend.

proponent N. /supporter; backer; opposite of opponent.

In the Senate, *proponents* of the universal health care measure lobbied to gain additional support for the controversial legislation.

propound V. /put forth for analysis.

In your discussion, you have *propounded* several questions; let us consider each one separately.

propriety N. /fitness; correct conduct.

Miss Manners counsels her readers so that they may behave with due propriety in any social situation and not embarrass themselves.

propulsive ADJ. /driving forward.

The jet plane has a greater propulsive power than the engine-driven plane.

prosaic ADJ. /dull and unimaginative; matter-of-fact; factual.

Though the ad writers came up with an original way to publicize the product, the head office rejected it for a more prosaic, ordinary slogan.

proscribe V. /Ostracize; banish; outlaw.

Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus *proscribed* all those who had conspired against Julius Caesar.

proselytize V. /convert to a religion or belief.

In these interfaith meetings, there must be no attempt to proselytize; we must respect all points of view.

prosperity N. /Good fortune; financial success; physical well-being.

Promising to stay together "for richer, for poorer," the newlyweds vowed to be true to one another in prosperity and hardship alike.

prostrate V. /stretch out full on ground.

He prostrated himself before the idol. also **ADJ.**

protean ADJ. /versatile; able to take on many shapes.

A remarkably protean actor, Alec Guinness could take on any role.

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protégé N. /person receiving protection and support from a patron.

Born with an independent spirit, Cyrano de Bergerac refused to be a protégé of Cardinal Richelieu.

protocol N. /diplomatic etiquette.

We must run this state dinner according to protocol if we are to avoid offending any of our guests.

prototype N. /original work used as a model by others.

The crude typewriter on display in this museum is the prototype of the elaborate machines in use today.

protract V. /prolong.

Seeking to delay the union members' vote, the management team tried to protract the negotiations endlessly.

protrude V. /stick out.

His fingers *protruded* from the holes in his gloves. protrusion, N.

protuberance N. /protrusion; bulge.

A ganglionic cyst is a fluid-filled tumor that develops near a joint membrane or tendon sheath, and that bulges beneath the skin, forming a protuberance.

provident ADJ. /displaying foresight; thrifty; preparing for emergencies.

In his usual *provident* manner, he had insured himself against this type of loss.

provincial ADJ. /pertaining to a province; limited in outlook; unsophisticated.

As provincial governor, Sir Henry administered the Queen's law in his remote corner of Canada. Caught up in local problems, out of touch with London news, he became sadly provincial.

provisional ADJ. /tentative.

Kim's acceptance as an American Express card holder was provisional: before issuing her a card, American Express wanted to check her employment record and credit history.

provocative ADJ. /arousing anger or interest; annoying.

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In a typically provocative act, the bully kicked sand into the weaker man's face.

provoke V. /stir to anger; cause retaliation.

In order to prevent a sudden outbreak of hostilities, we must not provoke our foe. provocation, N; provocative, ADJ.

proWess N. /extraordinary ability; military bravery.

Performing triple axels and double lutztes at the age of six, the young figure skater was world famous for her prowess on the ice.

proximity N. /nearness.

Blind people sometimes develop a compensatory ability to sense the proximity of objects around them.

proxy N. /authorized agent.

Please act as my proxy and vote for this slate of candidates in my absence.

prude N. /excessively modest person.

The X-rated film was definitely not for prudes, prudish, ADJ.

prudent ADJ. /cautious; careful.

A miser hoards money not because he is *prudent* but because he is greedy. prudence, N.

prune V. /cut away; trim.

With the help of her editor, she was able to *prune* her overlong manuscript into publishable form.

prurient ADJ. /having or causing lustful thoughts and desires.

Aroused by his *prurient* impulses, the dirty old man leered at the sweet young thing and offered to give her a sample of his "prowess."

pseudonym N. /pen name.

Samuel Clemens' *pseudonym* was Mark Twain.

psyche N. /soul; mind.

It is difficult to delve into the *psyche* of a human being.

pterodactyl N. /extinct flying reptile.

The remains of pterodactyls indicate that these flying reptiles had a wingspan of as much as twenty feet.

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puerile ADJ. /childish.

His *puerile* pranks sometimes offended his more mature friends.

pugilist N. /boxer.

The famous pugilist Cassius Clay changed his name to Muhammed Ali.

pugnacity N. /combativeness; disposition to fight.

"Put up your dukes!" he cried, making a fist to show his pugnacity.

pugnacious, **ADJ.**

pulchritude N. /beauty; comeliness.

I do not envy the judges who have to select this year's Miss America from this collection of female *pulchritude*.

pulverize V. /crush or grind into dust.

Before sprinkling the dried herbs into the stew, Michael first pulverized them into a fine powder.

pummel V. /beat or pound with fists.

Swinging wildly, Pam pummeled her brother around the head and shoulders.

punctilious ADJ. /laying stress on niceties of conduct or form; minutely attentive to fine points (perhaps too much so).

Percy is punctilious about observing the rules of etiquette whenever Miss Manners invites him to stay. punctiliousness. **N.**

pundit N. /authority on a subject; learned person; expert.

Some authors who write about SATI as if they are *pundits* actually know very little about the test.

pungent ADJ. /stinging; sharp in taste or smell; caustic.

The *pungent* odor of ripe Limburger cheese appealed to Simone but made Stanley gag.

punitive ADJ. /punishing.

He asked for *punitive* measures against the offender.

puny ADJ. /insignificant; tiny; weak.

Our *puny* efforts to stop the flood were futile.

purchase N. /firm grasp or footing.

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The mountaineer struggled to get a proper *purchase* on the slippery rock.
(secondary meaning)

purge V. /remove or get rid of something unwanted; free from blame or guilt; cleanse or purify.

When the Communist government *purged* the party to get rid of members suspected of capitalist sympathies, they sent the disloyal members to labor camps in Siberia.

purported ADJ. /alleged; claimed; reputed or rumored.

The purported Satanists sacrificing live roosters in the park turned out to be a party of Shriners holding a chicken barbecue.

purse V. /pucker; contract into wrinkles.

Miss Watson pursed her lips to show her disapproval of Huck's bedraggled appearance.

purveyor N. /furnisher of foodstuffs; caterer.

As purveyor of rare wines and viands, he traveled through France and Italy every year in search of new products to sell.

pusillanimous ADJ. /cowardly; fainthearted.

You should be ashamed of your pusillanimous conduct during this dispute.

putrid ADJ. /foul; rotten; decayed.

The gangrenous condition of the wound was indicated by the putrid smell when the bandages were removed. putrescence, N.

pyromaniac N. /person with an insane desire to set things on fire.

The detectives searched the area for the pyromaniac who had set these costly fires.

quack N. /charlatan; impostor.

Do not be misled by the exorbitant claims of this *quack*; he cannot cure you.

quadruped N. /four-footed animal.

Most mammals are quadrupeds.

quaff V. /drink with relish.

As we *quaffed* our ale, we listened to the lively songs of the students in the tavern.

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quagmire N. /soft wet boggy land; complex or dangerous situation from which it is difficult to free oneself.

Up to her knees in mud, Myra wondered how on earth she was going to extricate herself from this quagmire.

quail V. /cower; lose heart.

The Cowardly Lion was afraid that he would quail in the face of danger.

quaint ADJ. /odd; old-fashioned; picturesque.

Her *quaint* clothes and old-fashioned language marked her as an eccentric.

qualified ADJ. /limited; restricted.

Unable to give the candidate full support, the mayor gave him only a *qualified* endorsement. (secondary meaning)

qualms N. /misgivings; uneasy fears, especially about matters of conscience.

I have no qualms about giving this assignment to Helen; I know she will handle it admirably.

quandary N. /dilemma.

When both Harvard and Stanford accepted Laura, she was in a *quandary* as to which school she should attend.

quarantine N. /isolation of person or ship to prevent spread of infection. We will have to place this house under *quarantine* until we determine the exact nature of the disease. also **V.**

quarry N. /Victim; object of a hunt.

The police closed in on their quarry.

quarry V. /dig into.

They *quarried* blocks of marble out of the hillside.