

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Word List 42

sadisticADJ. /inclined to cruelty

If we are to improve conditions in this prison, we must first get rid of the sadistic warden.

sagaN. /Scandinavian myth; any legend

This is a saga of the sea and the men who risk their lives on it.

Sagacious /perceptive; shrewd;

My father was a sagacious judge of character: he could spot a phony a mile away. sagacity, N.

sageN. / celebrated for wisdom

Hearing tales of a mysterious Master of All Knowledge who lived in the hills of Tibet, Sandy was possessed with a burning desire to consult the legendary sage.

salaciousADJ. /lascivious

Chaucer's monk is not pious but salacious. a teller of lewd tales and ribald jests.

salientADJ. /prominent.

One of the salient features of that newspaper is its excellent editorial page.

salubriousADJ. / healthful

Many people with hay fever move to more salubrious sections of the country during the months of August and September.

salutaryADJ. /tending to improve; beneficial; wholesome.

The punishment had a salutary effect on the boy, as he became a model student.

salvageV. rescue from loss.

All attempts to salvage the wrecked ship failed. alsoN.

salvoN. /discharge of firearms; military salute.

The boom of the enemy's opening salvo made the petrified private jump.

sanctimoniousADJ /displaying ostentatious or hypocritical devoutness.

You do not have to be so *sanctimonious* to prove that you are devout.

sanctionV. /approve; ratify.

Nothing will convince me to *sanction* the engagement of my daughter to such a worthless young man.

sanctuaryN. / refuge; shelter; shrine; holy place.

The tiny attic was Helen's sanctuary to which she fled when she had to get away from the rest of her family.

sanguineADJ. /cheerful; hopeful.

Let us not be too sanguine about the outcome; something could go wrong.

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sapV. /diminish; undermine.

The element kryptonite has an unhealthy effect on Superman: it saps his strength.

sarcasmN. /scornful remarks; stinging rebuke.

Though Ralph pretended to ignore the mocking comments of his supposed friends, their sarcasm wounded him deeply.

sardonicADJ. /disdainful; sarcastic; cynical.

The *sardonic* humor of nightclub comedians who satirize or ridicule patrons in the audience strikes some people as amusing and others as rude.

sartorialADJ. /pertaining to tailors.

He was as famous for the sartorial splendor of his attire as he was for his acting.

sateV. /satisfy to the full; cloy

Its hunger sated, the lion dozed.

satelliteN. /small body revolving around a larger one.

During the first few years of the Space Age, hundreds of satellites were launched by Russia and the United States.

satiateV. /satisfy fully.

Having stuffed themselves until they were satiated, the guests were so full they were ready for a nap.

satireN. /form of literature in which irony, sarcasm, and ridicule are employed to attack vice and folly.

Gulliver's Travels, which is regarded by many as a tale for children, is actually a bitter satire attacking man's folly.

satiricalADJ. //mocking.

The humor of cartoonist Gary Trudeau often is satirical; through the comments of the Doonesbury characters, Trudeau ridicules political corruption and folly.

saturateV. /soak thoroughly

Saturate your sponge with water until it can't hold any more.

saturnineADJ. gloomy.

Do not be misled by his *saturnine* countenance; he is not as gloomy as he looks.

saunterV. /stroll slowly.

As we *sauntered* through the park, we stopped frequently to admire the spring flowers.

savantN. /scholar.

Our faculty includes many worldfamous savants.

savorV. /enjoy; have a distinctive flavor, smell, or quality.

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Relishing his triumph, the actor especially savored the chagrin of the critics who had predicted his failure.

savoryADJ. /tasty; pleasing, attractive, or agreeable.

Julia Child's recipes enable amateur chefs to create savory delicacies for their guests.

scabbardN /case for a sword blade; sheath.

The drill master told the recruit to wipe the blood from his sword before slipping it back into the *scabbard*.

scadN /a great quantity.

Refusing Dave's offer to lend him a shirt, Phil replied, "No, thanks, I've got scads of clothes."

scaffoldN /temporary platform for workers; bracing framework; platform for execution.

Before painting the house, the workers put up a scaffold to allow them to work on the second story.

scaleV. /climb up ; ascend.

In order to locate a book on the top shelf of the stacks, Lee had to scale an exceptionally rickety ladder.

scampN. / rascal

Despite his mischievous behavior, Malcolm was such an engaging scamp that his mother almost lacked the heart to punish him.

scantyADJ. /meager; insufficient.

Thinking his helping of food was scanty, Oliver Twist asked for more.

scapegoatN /someone who bears the blame for others.

After the *Challenger* disaster, NASA searched for scapegoats on whom they could cast the blame.

scavengeV. /hunt through discarded materials for usable items; search, especially for food.

If you need car parts that the dealers no longer stock, try *scavenging* for odd bits and pieces at the auto wreckers' yards. scavenger, N.

scenarioN. /plot outline; screenplay; opera libretto

Scaramouche startled the other actors in the commedia troupe when he suddenly departed from their customary scenario and began to improvise.

schematicADJ. /relating to an outline or diagram; using a system of symbols.

In working out the solution to this logic puzzle, you may find it helpful to construct a simple schematic diagram outlining the order of events.

schismN. /division; split.

Let us not widen the schism by further bickering.

scintillateV. /sparkle; flash.

I enjoy her dinner parties because the food is excellent and the

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conversation scintillates.

scoffV. /mock; ridicule. He scoffed at dentists until he had his first toothache.

scourgeN /lash; whip; severe punishment.

They feared the plague and regarded it as a deadly scourge. alsoV.

scrupleV. /fret about; hesitate, for ethical reasons.

Fearing that her husband had become involved in an affair, she did not scruple to read his diary. alsoN.

scrupulousADJ. /conscientious; extremely thorough.

Though Alfred is scrupulous in fulfilling his duties at work, he is less conscientious about his obligations to his family and friends.

scrutinizeV. /examine closely and critically.

Searching for flaws, the sergeant *scrutinized* every detail of the private's uniform.

scuffleV. /struggle confusedly ; move off in a confused hurry.

The twins briefly *scuffled*, wrestling to see which of them would get the toy. When their big brother yelled, "Let go of my Gameboy!" they *scuffled* off down the hall. **scurrilousADJ.** obscene; indecent. Your scurrilous remarks are especially offensive because they are untrue.

scurryV. /move briskly.

The White Rabbit had to scurry to get to his appointment on time.

scurvyADJ. /despicable; contemptible.

Peter Pan sneered at Captain Hook and his scurvy crew.

scuttleV. /scurry ; run with short, rapid steps.

The bug *scuttled* rapidly across the floor.

scuttleV. /sink.

The sailors decided to *scuttle* their vessel rather than surrender it to the enemy.

seamyADJ. /sordid; unwholesome

In *The Godfather*, Michael Corleone is unwilling to expose his wife and children to the seamy side of his life as the son of a Mafia don. **searV.** Char or burn; brand. Accidentally brushing against the hot grill, she *seared* her hand badly.

seasonedADJ. //experienced.

Though pleased with her new batch of rookies, the basketball coach wished she had a few more *seasoned* players on the team.

secessionN /withdrawal.

The secession of the Southern states provided Lincoln with his first major problem after his inauguration. **secede,V.**

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seclusionN. //isolation; solitude.

One moment she loved crowds; the next, she sought seclusion. seclude,V.

secreteV. /hide away; produce and release a substance into an organism.

The pack rat secretes odds and ends in its nest; the pancreas secretes insulin in the islets of Langerhans. Sect N. separate religious body; faction. As university chaplain, she sought to address universal religious issues and not limit herself to concerns of any one sect.

sectarianADJ. relating to a religious faction or subgroup; narrowminded;

Far from being broad-minded, the religious leader was intolerant of new ideas, paying attention only to purely *sectarian* interests. sect. N.

secularADJ. /worldly; not pertaining to church matters; temporal.

The church leaders decided not to interfere in secular matters.

sedateADJ /composed; grave.

The parents were worried because they felt their son was too quiet and sedate.

sedentaryADJ. / requiring sitting.

Disliking the effect of her sedentary occupation on her figure, Stacy decided to work out at the gym every other day.

seditionN. /resistance to authority;insubordination.

His words, though not treasonous in themselves, were calculated to arouse thoughts of *sedition*.

sedulousADJ./diligent; hardworking.

After weeks of patient and sedulous labor, we completed our detailed analysis of every published SAT examination.

seedyADJ /run-down; decrepit; disreputable.

I would rather stay in dormitory lodgings in a decent youth hostel than have a room of my own in a seedy downtown hotel.

seemlyADJ. /proper; appropriate.

Lady Bracknell did not think it was seemly for Ernest to lack a proper family: no baby abandoned on a doorstep could grow up to be a fit match for her daughter.

seepV. /ooze; trickle.

During the rainstorm, water seeped through the crack in the basement wall and damaged the floor boards. seepage, N.

seetheV. //be disturbed; boil.

The nation was seething with discontent as the noblemen continued their arrogant ways.

seismicADJ. //pertaining to earthquakes

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The Richter scale is a measurement of seismic disturbances.

seminaryN. /school for training future ministers; academy for young women.

Sure of his priestly vocation, Terrence planned to pursue his theological training at the local Roman Catholic seminary.

sensualADJ. /devoted to the pleasures of the senses; carnal; voluptuous.

I cannot understand what caused him to abandon his sensual way of life and become so ascetic.

sententiousADJ. /terse; concise; aphoristic

After reading so many redundant speeches, I find his sententious style particularly pleasing.

sentinelN. /sentry; lookout

Though camped in enemy territory, Bledsoe ignored the elementary precaution of posting sentinels around the encampment.

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