

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING –ENGLISH VOCABULARY

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canto n. // **division of a long poem.**

Dante's poetic masterpiece *The Divine Comedy* is divided into cantos.

canvass v. // **determine votes, etc.**

After canvassing the sentiments of his constituents, the congressman was confident that he represented the majority opinion of his district. also n.

capacious adj. // **spacious.**

In the capacious rotunda of the railroad terminal, thousands of travelers lingered while waiting for their train.

Capacity n. // **mental or physical ability;**

role; ability to accommodate. Mike had the capacity to handle several jobs at once. In his capacity as president of SelecTronics he marketed an electronic dictionary with a capacity of 200,000 words.

capitulate v. // **surrender.**

The enemy was warned to capitulate or face annihilation.

caprice n. // **sudden, unexpected fancy;**

whim. On a caprice, Jack tried dragracing, but paid the price-his father took his Chevy Caprice away from him.

capricious adj. // **unpredictable; fickle.**

The storm was capricious: it changed course constantly. Jill was capricious, too: she changed boyfriends almost as often as she changed clothes.

caption n. // **title;**

chapter heading; text under illustration. The captions that accompany *The Far Side* cartoons are almost as funny as the pictures. also v.

captivate v. // **charm or enthrall.**

Bart and Lisa were captivated by their new nanny's winning manner.

carat n. // **unit of weight for precious stones;**

measure of fineness of gold. He gave her a threecarat diamond mounted in an eighteen-carat gold band.

cardinal adj. // **chief.**

If you want to increase your word power, the cardinal rule of vocabulary-building is to read.

cardiologist n. // **doctor specializing in the heart.**

When the pediatrician noticed Philip had a slight heart murmur, she referred him to a cardiologist for further tests.

careen v. // **lurch; sway from side to side.**

The taxicab *careened* wildly as it rounded the corner.

caricature n. // **distortion; burlesque.**

The *caricatures* he drew always emphasized a personal weakness of the people he burlesqued. also v.

carnage n. // **destruction of life.**

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The film *The Killing Fields* vividly depicts the *carnage* wreaked by Pol Pot's followers in Cambodia.

carnal ADJ. // **fleshly**.

Is the public more interested in *carnal* pleasures than in spiritual matters? Compare the number of people who read *Playboy* daily to the number of those who read the Bible or Koran every day.

carnivorous ADJ. // **meat-eating**.

The lion's a *carnivorous* beast. A hunk of meat makes up his feast. A cow is not a *carnivore*. She likes the taste of grain, not gore.

***carping** ADJ. // **finding fault**.

A *carping* critic is a nit-picker: he loves to point out flaws. If you don't like this definition, feel free to *carp*.

cartographer N. // **map-maker**.

Though not a professional cartographer, Tolkien was able to construct a map of his fictional world.

cascade N. // **small waterfall**.

We were too tired to appreciate the beauty of the many cascades because we had to detour around them to avoid being drenched by the water *cascading* down.

castigate V. /; // **criticize severely; punish**.

When the teacher threatened that she would castigate the mischievous boys if they didn't behave, they shaped up in a hurry.

casualty N. /; // **serious or fatal accident**.

The number of automotive casualties on this holiday weekend was high.

cataclysm N. // **upheaval; deluge**.

A cataclysm such as the French Revolution affects all countries. cataclysmic, ADJ.

catalyst N. // **agent which brings about a chemical change while it remains unaffected and unchanged**.

Many chemical reactions cannot take place without the presence of a catalyst.

catapult N. // **slingshot; a hurling machine**.

Airplanes are sometimes launched from battleships by catapults. also v.

cataract N. // **great waterfall; eye abnormality**. She gazed with awe at the mighty cataract known as Niagara Falls.

catastrophe N. // **calamity; disaster**.

The 1906 San Francisco earthquake was a *catastrophe* that destroyed most of the city. A similar earthquake striking today could have even more catastrophic results.

catcall N. // **shout of disapproval; boo**

. Every major league pitcher has off days during which he must learn to ignore the catcalls and angry hisses from the crowd.

catechism N. // **book for religious instruction; instruction by question and answer**. He taught by engaging his pupils in a catechism until they gave him the correct answer.

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categorical ADJ. // **without exceptions; unqualified;**

absolute. Though the captain claimed he was never, never sick at sea, he finally had to qualify his categorical denial: he was "hardly ever" sick at sea.

cater to V. // **supply something desired (whether good or bad).**

The chef was happy to cater to the tastes of his highly sophisticated clientele. Critics condemned the movie industry for catering to the public's ever-increasing appetite for violence.

catharsis N. // **purging or cleansing of any passage of the body**

. Aristotle maintained that tragedy created a catharsis by purging the soul of base concepts.

catholic ADJ. // **broadly sympathetic;**

liberal. He was extremely catholic in his taste and read everything he could find in the library.

caucus N. // **private meeting of members of a party to select officers or determine policy.**

At the opening of Congress, the members of the Democratic Party held a caucus to elect the Majority Leader of the House and the Party Whip.

caulk V. // **make watertight by filling in cracks.**

Jack had to caulk the tiles in the shower stall to stop the leak into the basement below.

causal ADJ. // **implying a cause-and-effect relationship.**

The psychologist maintained there was a causal relationship between the nature of one's early childhood experiences and one's adult personality. causality, N.

caustic ADJ. // **burning; sarcastically biting.**

The critic's caustic remarks angered the hapless actors who were the subjects of his sarcasm.

cavalcade N. // **procession; parade.**

As described by Chaucer, the cavalcade of Canterbury pilgrims was a motley group.

cavalier ADJ. // **offhand or casual; haughty.**

The disguised prince resented the cavalier way in which the palace guards treated him. How dared they handle a member of the royal family so unceremoniously!

cavil V. // **make frivolous objections.**

It's fine when you make sensible criticisms, but it really bugs me when you cavil about unimportant details. also N.

cede V. // **yield (title, territory) to; surrender formally.**

Eventually the descendants of England's Henry II were forced to cede their French territories to the King of France.

celebrated ADJ. // **famous; well-known.**

Thanks to their race to break Roger Maris's home-run record, Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire are two of America's most celebrated baseball players. celebrity, N.

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celerity *n.* // **speed; rapidity.**

Hamlet resented his mother's *celerity* in remarrying within a month after his father's death.

celestial *adj.* // **heavenly.**

She spoke of the *celestial* joys that awaited virtuous souls in the hereafter.

celibate *adj.* // **unmarried;**

abstaining from sexual intercourse. The perennial bachelor vowed to remain *celibate*. *celibacy*, *n.*

censor *n.* // **overseer of morals;**

person who reads to eliminate inappropriate remarks. Soldiers dislike having their mail read by a *censor* but understand the need for this precaution. *also v.*

ensorious *adj.* // **critical.**

Censorious people delight in casting blame.

censure *v.* // **blame; criticize.**

The senator was *censured* for behavior inappropriate to a member of Congress. *also n.*

centigrade *adj.* // **measure of temperature used widely in Europe.**

On the *centigrade* thermometer, the freezing point of water is zero degrees.

centrifugal *adj.* // **radiating; departing from the center.**

Many automatic drying machines remove excess moisture from clothing by centrifugal force.

centripetal *adj.* // **toward the center.**

Does centripetal force or the force of gravity bring orbiting bodies to the earth's surface?

centurion *n.* // **Roman army officer.**

Because he was in command of a company of one hundred soldiers, he was called a centurion.

cerebral *adj.* // **pertaining to the brain or intellect.**

The content of philosophical works is *cerebral* in nature and requires much thought.

cerebration *n.* // **thought.**

Mathematics problems sometimes require much *cerebration*.

ceremonious *adj.* // **marked by formality.**

Ordinary dress would be inappropriate at so *ceremonious* an affair.

certitude *n.* // **certainty.**

Though there was no *certitude* of his getting the job, Lou thought he had a good chance of doing so.

cessation *n.* // **stoppage.**

The airline's employees threatened a cessation of all work if management failed to

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meet their demands. cease,v.

cession n./yielding to another; ceding.

The cession of Alaska to the United States is discussed in this chapter.

chafe v./warm by rubbing; make sore (by rubbing). Chilled

, he *chafed* his hands before the fire.

The collar of his school uniform *chafed* Tom's neck, but not as much the school's strict rules *chafed* his spirit. also n.

chaff n. worthless products of an endeavor.

When you separate the wheat from the *chaff*, be sure you throw out the *chaff*.

chaffing ADJ./bantering; joking

. Sometimes Chad's flippant, *chaffing* remarks annoy us. Still, Chad's *chaffing* keeps us laughing. also n.

chagrin n./vexation (caused by humiliation or injured pride); disappointment.

Embarrassed by his

parents' shabby, working-class appearance, Doug felt their visit to his school would bring him nothing but *chagrin*. Someone filled with *chagrin* doesn't grin: he's too mortified.

chalice n./goblet; consecrated cup. In a small room adjoining the cathedral, many ornately decorated *chalices* made by the most famous European goldsmiths were on display.

chameleon n./lizard that changes color in different situations

. Like the *chameleon*, he assumed the political thinking of every group he met.