

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST - 4

apotheosis N. /elevation to godhood; an ideal example of something.
The *apotheosis* of a Roman emperor was designed to insure his eternal greatness: people would worship at his altar forever. The hero of the musical *How to Succeed in Business ...* was the *apotheosis* of yuppieness: he was the perfect upwardly-bound young man on the make.

appall V. / dismay; shock.
We were *appalled* by the horrifying conditions in the city's jails.

apparatus N. /equipment.
Firefighters use specialized *apparatus* to fight fires.

apparition N. / ghost; phantom.
On the castle battlements, an apparition materialized and spoke to Hamlet, warning **him** of his uncle's treachery. In *Ghostbusters*, hordes of apparitions materialized, only to be dematerialized by the specialized apparatus wielded by Bill Murray.

appease V. / pacify or soothe; relieve.
Tom and Jody tried to *appease* the crying baby by offering him one toy after another, but he would not calm down until they *appeased* his hunger by giving him a bottle.

appellation N /name; title.
Macbeth was startled when the witches greeted him with an incorrect appellation. Why did they call him Thane of Cawdor, he wondered, when the holder of that title still lived?

append V. /attach.
When you *append* a bibliography to a text, you have just created an *appendix*.

application N. /diligent attention.
Pleased with how well Tom had whitewashed the fence, Aunt Polly praised him for his application to the task. apply, **V.** (secondary meaning)

opposite ADJ. / appropriate; fitting.
He was always able to find the opposite phrase, the correct expression for every occasion.

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST - 4

appraise V. /estimate value of.

It is difficult to appraise the value of old paintings; it is easier to call them priceless. appraisal, **N.**

appreciate V. / /be thankful for;

Little Orphan Annie truly appreciated the stocks Daddy Warbucks gave her, which appreciated in value considerably over the years.

apprehend V. / arrest (a criminal); dread; perceive.

The police will *apprehend* the culprit and convict him before long.

apprehension N. /fear.

His nervous glances at the passersby on the deserted street revealed his *apprehension*.

apprenticeship N. /time spent as a novice learning a trade from a skilled worker.

As a child, Pip had thought it would be wonderful to work as Joe's apprentice; now he hated his *apprenticeship* and scorned the blacksmith's trade.

apprise V. / inform.

When he was apprised of the dangerous weather conditions, he decided to postpone his trip.

approbation N. /approval.

She looked for some sign of *approbation* from her parents, hoping her good grades would please them.

appropriate V. /acquire; take possession of for one's own use.

The ranch owners appropriated the lands that had originally been set aside for the Indians' use.

apropos PREP. /with reference to; regarding.

I find your remarks apropos of the present situation timely and pertinent. also **ADJ.** and **ADV.**

aptitude N. /fitness; talent.

The counselor gave him an aptitude test before advising him about the career he should follow.

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST - 4

aquatic ADJ. /pertaining to water.

Paul enjoyed aquatic sports such as scuba diving and snorkeling.

aquiline ADJ. / curved, hooked.

He can be recognized by his *aquiline* nose, curved like the beak of the eagle.

arable ADJ. / fit for growing crops.

The first settlers wrote home glowing reports of the New World, praising its vast acres of *arable* land ready for the plow.

arbiter N. / a person with power to decide a dispute; judge.

As an arbiter in labor disputes, she has won the confidence of the workers and the employers.

arbitrary ADJ. /capricious; randomly chosen; tyrannical.

Tom's arbitrary dismissal angered him; his boss had no reason to fire him. He threw an arbitrary assortment of clothes into his suitcase and headed off, not caring where he went.

arbitrator N. / judge.

Because the negotiating teams had been unable to reach a contract settlement, an outside arbitrator was called upon to mediate the dispute between union and management. arbitration, **N.**

arboretum N. /place where different tree varieties are exhibited.

Walking along the tree-lined paths of the arboretum, Rita noted poplars, firs, and some particularly fine sycamores.

arcade N. /a covered passageway, usually lined with shops.

The *arcade* was popular with shoppers because it gave them protection from the summer sun and the winter rain.

arcane ADJ. /secret; mysterious; known only to the initiated.

Secret brotherhoods surround themselves with *arcane* rituals and trappings to mystify outsiders. So do doctors. Consider the *arcane* terminology they use and the impression they try to give that what is arcane to us is obvious to them.

archaeology N. /study of artifacts and relics of early mankind.

The professor of archaeology headed an expedition to the Gobi Desert in search of ancient ruins.

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST - 4

archaic ADJ. / antiquated.

"Methinks," "thee," and "thou" are archaic words that are no longer part of our normal vocabulary.

archetype N. /prototype; primitive pattern.

The Brooklyn Bridge was the archetype of the many spans that now connect Manhattan with Long Island and New Jersey.

archipelago N. /group of closely located islands.

When Gauguin looked at the map and saw the 11 Barron's SAT I Basic Word List archipelagoes in the South Seas, he longed to visit them.

archives N. /public records; place where public records are kept.

These documents should be part of the archives so that historians may be able to evaluate them in the future.

ardent ADJ. /intense; passionate; zealous.

Katya's ardor was contagious; soon all her fellow demonstrators were busily making posters and handing out flyers, inspired by her *ardent* enthusiasm for the cause. ardor, **N.**

arduous ADJ. /hard; strenuous.

Her *arduous* efforts had sapped her energy.

aria N. /operatic solo.

At her Metropolitan Opera audition, Marian Anderson sang an *aria* from *Norma*.

arid ADJ. /dry; barren.

The cactus has adapted to survive in an *arid* environment.

aristocracy N. /hereditary nobility; privileged class.

Americans have mixed feelings about hereditary aristocracy. We say all men are created equal, but we describe particularly outstanding people as natural aristocrats.

armada N. /fleet of warships.

Queen Elizabeth's navy defeated the mighty armada that threatened the English coast.

aromatic ADJ. /fragrant.

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST - 4

Medieval sailing vessels brought aromatic herbs from China to Europe.

arousal N. /awakening; provocation (of a response).

On arousal, Papa was always grumpy as a bear. The children tiptoed around the house, fearing they would arouse his anger by waking him up.

arraign V. /charge in court; indict.

After his indictment by the Grand Jury, the accused man was *arraigned* in the County Criminal Court.

array V. /marshal; draw up in order.

His actions were bound to array public sentiment against him. also **N.**

array V. /clothe; adorn.

She liked to watch her mother array herself in her finest clothes before going out for the evening. also **N.**

arrears N. /being in debt.

He was in arrears with his payments on the car.

arrest V. / stop or slow down; catch someone's attention.

Slipping, the trapeze artist plunged from the heights until a safety net luckily arrested his fall. This near-disaster *arrested* the crowd's attention.

arrogance N. /pride; haughtiness.

Convinced that Emma thought she was better than anyone else in the class, Ed rebuked her for her arrogance.

arroyo N. / gully.

Until the heavy rains of the past spring, this arroyo had been a dry bed.

arsenal N. /storage place for military equipment.

People are forbidden to smoke in the *arsenal* for fear that a stray spark might set off the munitions stored there.

articulate ADJ. /effective; distinct.

Her articulate presentation of the advertising campaign impressed her employers. also **V.**

artifact N. /object made by human beings, either handmade or mass-produced.

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST - 4

Archaeologists debated the significance of the artifacts discovered in the ruins of Asia Minor but came to no conclusion about the culture they represented.

artifice N. /deception; trickery.

The Trojan War proved to the Greeks that cunning and artifice were often more effective than military might.

artisan N. /manually skilled worker; craftsman, as opposed to artist.

A noted artisan, Arturo was known for the fine craftsmanship of his inlaid cabinets.

artless ADJ. /without guile; open and honest.

Sophisticated and cynical, Jack could not believe Jill was as artless and naive as she appeared to be.

ascendancy N. /controlling influence; domination.

Leaders of religious cults maintain *ascendancy* over their followers by methods that can verge on brainwashing.

ascertain V. / find out for certain.

Please ascertain her present address.

ascetic ADJ. / practicing self-denial; austere.

The wealthy, self-indulgent young man felt oddly drawn to the strict, *ascetic* life led by *members* of some monastic orders. also **N.**

ascribe V. /refer; attribute; assign.

I can *ascribe* no motive for her acts.

aseptic ADJ. /preventing infection; having a cleansing effect.

Hospitals succeeded in lowering the mortality rate as soon as they introduced *aseptic* conditions.

ashen ADJ. / ash-colored.

Her face was *ashen* with fear.

asinine ADJ. /stupid.

Your *asinine* remarks prove that you have not given this problem any serious consideration.

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST - 4

askance ADJ. /with a sideways or indirect look.

Looking *askance* at her questioner, she displayed her scorn.

askew ADJ. / crookedly; slanted; at an angle.

When he placed his hat *askew* upon his head, his observers laughed.

asperity N. / sharpness (of temper).

These remarks, spoken with *asperity*, stung the boys to whom they had been directed.

aspirant N. / seeker after position or status.

Although I am an *aspirant* for public office, I am not willing to accept the dictates of the party bosses. also **ADJ.**

aspire V. / seek to attain; long for.

Because he *aspired* to a career in professional sports, Philip enrolled in a graduate program in sports management. *aspiration*, **N.**

assail V. / assault.

He was *assailed* with questions after his lecture.

assay V. / analyze; evaluate.

When they *assayed* the ore, they found that they had discovered a very rich vein. also **N.**

assent V. /agree; accept.

It gives me great pleasure to *assent* to your request.

assert V. /declare or state with confidence; put oneself forward **boldly.** Malcolm *asserted* that if Reese quit acting like a wimp and *asserted* himself a bit more, he'd improve his chances of getting a date. *assertion*, **N.**

assessment N. /evaluation; judgment.

Your SAT I score plays a part in the admission committee's *assessment* of you as an applicant.

assiduous ADJ. /diligent.

He was *assiduous*, working at this task for weeks before he felt satisfied with his results. *assiduity*, **N.**

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

WORD LIST - 4

assimilate V. / absorb; cause to become homogeneous.

The manner in which the United States was able to assimilate the hordes of immigrants during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries will always be a source of pride to Americans. The immigrants eagerly assimilated new ideas and customs; they soaked them up, the way plants soak up water.

***assuage V.** / ease or lessen (pain); satisfy (hunger); soothe (anger).

Jilted by Jane, Dick tried to assuage his heartache by indulging in ice cream. One gallon later, he had *assuaged* his appetite but not his grief.

assumption / something taken for granted; taking over or taking possession of.

The young princess made the foolish assumption that the regent would not object to her assumption of power. *assume*, **V.**

assurance N. / promise or pledge; certainty; self-confidence.

When Guthrie gave Guinness his *assurance* that rehearsals were going well, he spoke with such assurance that Guinness felt relieved. *assure*, **V.**

asteroid N. / small planet.

Asteroids have become commonplace to the readers of interstellar *travel stories* in science fiction magazines.

astigmatism N. / eye defect that prevents proper focus.

As soon as his parents discovered that the boy suffered from astigmatism, they took him to the optometrist for corrective glasses.