

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING – ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Word List 32

nauseate V. /cause to become sick; fill with disgust.

The foul smells began to nauseate him.

nautical ADJ. /pertaining to ships or navigation.

The Maritime Museum contains many models of clipper ships, logbooks, anchors and many other items of a nautical nature.

navigable ADJ. /wide and deep enough to allow ships to pass through; able to be steered.

So much sand had built up at the bottom of the canal that the waterway was barely navigable.

nebulous ADJ. /vague; hazy; cloudy.

After twenty years, she had only a *nebulous* memory of her grandmother's face.

necromancy N. /black magic; dealings with the dead.

The evil sorcerer performed feats of *necromancy*, calling on the spirits of the dead to tell the future.

nefarious ADJ. /very wicked.

The villain's crimes, though various, were one and all nefarious.

negate V. /cancel out; nullify; deny.

A sudden surge of adrenalin can negate the effects of fatigue: there's nothing like a good shock to wake you up.

negligence N. /neglect; failure to take reasonable care.

Tommy failed to put back the cover on the well after he fetched his pail of water; because of his negligence, Kitty fell in.

negligible ADJ. /so small, trifling, or unimportant that it may be easily disregarded.

Because the damage to his car had been negligible, Michael decided he wouldn't bother to report the matter to his insurance company.

nemesis N. /someone seeking revenge.

Abandoned at sea in a small boat, the vengeful Captain Bligh vowed to be the nemesis of Fletcher Christian and his fellow mutineers.

neologism N. /new or newly coined word or phrase.

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As we invent new techniques and professions, we must also invent neologisms such as "microcomputer" and "astronaut" to describe them.

neophyte N. /recent convert; beginner.

This mountain slope contains slides that will challenge experts as well as neophytes.

nepotism N. /favoritism (to a relative).

John left his position with the company because he felt that advancement was based on *nepotism* rather than ability.

nettle V. /annoy; vex.

Do not let him *nettle* you with his sarcastic remarks.

neutral ADJ. /impartial; not supporting one side over another.

Reluctant to get mixed up in someone else's quarrel, Bobby tried to remain *neutral*, but eventually he had to take sides.

nicety N. /precision; minute distinction.

I cannot distinguish between such *niceties* of reasoning.

nihilist N. /one who believes traditional beliefs to be groundless and existence meaningless; absolute skeptic; revolutionary terrorist.

In his final days, Hitler revealed himself a power-mad *nihilist*, ready to annihilate all of Western Europe, even to destroy Germany itself, in order that his will might prevail. The root of the word *nihilist* is *nihil*, Latin for *nothing*. nihilism, **N.**

nip V. /stop something's growth or development; snip off; bite; make numb with cold.

The twins were plotting mischief, but Mother intervened and *nipped* that plan in the bud. The gardener *nipped* off a lovely rose and gave it to me. Last week a guard dog *nipped* the postman in the leg; this week the extreme chill *nipped* his fingers till he could barely hold the mail.

nirvana N. /in Buddhist teachings, the ideal state in which the individual loses himself in the attainment of an impersonal beatitude.

Despite his desire to achieve *nirvana*, the young Buddhist found that even the buzzing of a fly could distract him from his meditation.

nocturnal ADJ. /done at night.

Mr. Jones obtained a watchdog to prevent the *nocturnal* raids on his chicken

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coops.

noisome ADJ. /foul-smelling; unwholesome.

The *noisome* atmosphere downwind of the oil refinery not only stank, it damaged the lungs of everyone living in the area.

nomadic ADJ. /wandering.

Several *nomadic* tribes of Indians would hunt in this area each year.

nomenclature N. /terminology; system of names.

Sharon found Latin word parts useful in translating medical *nomenclature*: when her son had to have a bilateral myringotomy, she figured out that he just needed a hole in each of his eardrums to end the earaches he had.

nominal ADJ. /in name only; trifling.

He offered to drive her to the airport for only a *nominal* fee.

nonchalance N. /indifference; lack of concern; composure.

Cool, calm, and collected under fire, James Bond shows remarkable *nonchalance* in the face of danger.

noncommittal ADJ. /neutral; unpledged; undecided.

We were annoyed by his *noncommittal* reply for we had been led to expect definite assurances of his approval.

nondescript ADJ. /undistinctive; ordinary.

The private detective was a short, *nondescript* fellow with no outstanding features, the sort of person one would never notice in a crowd.

nonentity N. /person of no importance; nonexistence.

Because the two older princes dismissed their youngest brother as a *nonentity*, they did not realize that he was quietly plotting to seize the throne.

nonplus V. /bring to halt by confusion; perplex.

Jack's uncharacteristic rudeness *nonplussed* Jill, leaving her uncertain how to react.

nostalgia N. /homesickness; longing for the past.

My grandfather seldom spoke of life in the old country; he had little patience with *nostalgia*. **nostalgic, ADJ.**

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notable ADJ. /conspicuous; important; distinguished.

Normally *notable* for his calm in the kitchen, today the head cook was shaking, for the *notable* chef Julia Child was coming to dinner.

notoriety N. /disrepute; ill fame.

To the starlet, any publicity was good publicity: if she couldn't have a good reputation, she'd settle for *notoriety*. notorious, **ADJ.**

novelty N. /something new; newness.

The computer is no longer a *novelty* at work; every desk in our office has one. novel, **ADJ.**

novice N. /beginner.

Even a *novice* at working with computers can install *Barron's Computer Study Program for the SAT* by following the easy steps outlined in the user's manual.

noxious ADJ. /harmful.

We must trace the source of these *noxious* gases before they asphyxiate us.

nuance N. /shade of difference in meaning or color; subtle distinction.

Jody gazed at the Monet landscape for an hour, appreciating every subtle *nuance* of color in the painting.

nullify V. /to make invalid.

Once the contract was *nullified*, it no longer had any legal force.

numismatist N. /person who collects coins.

The *numismatist* had a splendid collection of antique coins.

nuptial ADJ. /related to marriage.

Reluctant to be married in a traditional setting, they decided to hold their *nuptial* ceremony at the carousel in Golden Gate Park.

nurture V. /nourish; educate; foster.

The Head Start program attempts to *nurture* pre-kindergarten children so that they will do well when they enter public school. also **N.**

nutrient N. /nourishing substance.

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As a budding nutritionist, Kim has learned to design diets that contain foods rich in important basic nutrients.

oaf N. /stupid, awkward person.

"Watch what you're doing, you clumsy *oaf!*" Bill shouted at the waiter who had drenched him with iced coffee.

obdurate ADJ. /stubborn.

He was *obdurate* in his refusal to listen to our complaints.

obese ADJ. /fat.

It is advisable that *obese* people try to lose weight.

obfuscate V. /confuse; muddle; cause confusion; make needlessly complex. Was the president's spokesman trying to clarify the Whitewater mystery, or was he trying to *obfuscate* the *issue* so the voters would never figure out what went on?

obituary ADJ. /death notice.

I first learned of her death when I read the *obituary* column in the newspaper.

objective ADJ. /not influenced by emotions; fair.

Even though he was her son, she tried to be *objective* about his behavior.

objective N. /goal; aim.

A degree in medicine was her ultimate *objective*.

obligatory ADJ. /binding; required.

It is *obligatory* that books borrowed from the library be returned within two weeks.

oblique ADJ. /indirect; slanting

Casting a quick, *oblique* glance at the reviewing stand, the sergeant ordered the company march "*Oblique* Right."

obliterate V./destroy completely.

The tidal wave *obliterated* several island villages,

oblivion N. /obscurity; forgetfulness.

After a decade of popularity, Hurston's works had fallen into *oblivion*; no one bothered to read them any more.

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oblivious ADJ. /inattentive or unmindful; wholly absorbed.

Deep in her book, Nancy was *oblivious* to the noisy squabbles of her brother and his friends.

obnoxious ADJ. /offensive.

I find your behavior *obnoxious*; please mend your ways.

obscure ADJ. /dark; vague; unclear.

Even after I read the poem a fourth time, its meaning was still *obscure*.
obscurity, **N.**

obscure V. /darken; make unclear.

At times he seemed purposely to *obscure* his meaning, preferring mystery to clarity.

obsequious ADJ. /slavishly attentive; servile; sycophantic.

Helen liked to be served by people who behaved as if they respected themselves; nothing irritated her more than an excessively *obsequious* waiter or a fawning salesclerk.

obsessive ADJ. /related to thinking about something constantly; preoccupying.

Ballet, which had been a hobby, began to dominate his life: his love of dancing became *obsessive*.