

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Word List 14

derogatory *ADJ.* // expressing a low opinion.
I resent your *derogatory* remarks.

descant *v.* // discuss fully.
He was willing to *descant* upon any topic of conversation, even when

descri *v.* // catch sight of. In the distance,
we could barely *descri* the enemy vessels.

desecrate *v.* // profane;
violate the sanctity of. Shattering the altar and trampling the holy objects underfoot, the invaders *desecrated* the sanctuary.

desiccate *v.* // dry up.
A tour of this smokehouse will give you an idea of how the pioneers used to *desiccate* food in order to preserve it.

desolate *ADJ.* // unpopulated.
After six months in the crowded, bustling metropolis, David was so sick of people that he was ready to head for the most *desolate* patch of wilderness he could find.

desolate *v.* // rob of joy;
lay waste to; forsake. The bandits *desolated* the countryside, burning farms and carrying off the harvest.

despise *v.* look on with scorn;
regard as worthless or distasteful. Mr. Bond, I *despise* spies; I look down on them as mean, *despicable*, honorless men, whom I would wipe from the face of the earth with as little concern as I would scrape dog droppings from the bottom of my shoe.

despoil *v.* // plunder.
If you do not yield, I am afraid the enemy will *despoil* the countryside.

despondent *ADJ.* // depressed;
gloomy. To the dismay of his parents, William became seriously *despondent* after he broke up with Jan; they despaired of finding a cure for his gloom. *despondency*, *n.*

despot *n.* // tyrant;
harsh, authoritarian ruler. How could a benevolent king turn overnight into a *despot*?

destitute *ADJ.* // extremely poor.
Because they had no health insurance, the father's costly illness left the family *destitute*.

desultory *ADJ.* // aimless;
haphazard; digressing at random. In prison Malcolm X set himself the task of reading straight through the dictionary; to him, reading was purposeful, not *desultory*.

detached *ADJ.* // emotionally removed;
calm and objective; physically unconnected. A psychoanalyst must maintain a *detached* point of view and stay uninvolved with his or her patients' personal lives. To a child growing up in an apartment or a row house, to live in a *detached* house was an unattainable dream.

detergent *n.* // cleansing agent.
Many new *detergents* have *replaced* soap.

determination *n.* // resolve;
measurement or calculation; decision. Nothing could shake his *determination* that his children would get the best education that money could buy. Thanks to my pocket calculator, my *determination* of the answer to the problem took only seconds of my time.

deterrent *n.* // something that discourages;
hindrance. Does the threat of capital punishment serve as a *deterrent* to potential killers? *deter*, *v.*

detonation *n.* // explosion.

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The *detonation* of the bomb could be heard miles away.

detraction *N.* //slandering;

aspersion. He is offended by your frequent *detractions* of his ability as a leader.

detrimental *ADJ.* //harmful;

damaging. The candidate's acceptance of major financial contributions from a well-known racist ultimately proved *detrimental* to his campaign, for he lost the backing of many of his early grassroots supporters. detriment, *N.*

deviate *V.* //turn away from (a principle, norm);

depart; diverge. Richard never *deviated* from his daily routine: every day he set off for work at eight o'clock, had his sack lunch (peanut butter on whole wheat) at 12:15, and headed home at the stroke of five.

devious *ADJ.* //roundabout;

erratic; not straightforward. The Joker's plan was so *devious* that it was only with great difficulty we could follow its shifts and dodges.

devise *V.* //think up;

invent; plan. How clever he must be to have *devised* such a devious plan!

What ingenious inventions might he have *devised* if he had turned his mind to science and not to crime.

devoid *ADJ.* //lacking.

You may think her mind is a total void, but she's actually not *devoid* of intelligence. She just sounds like an airhead.

devotee *N.* //enthusiastic follower.

A *devotee* of the opera, he bought season tickets every year.

devout *ADJ.* //pious.

The devout man prayed daily.

dexterous *ADJ.* //skillful.

The magician was so *dexterous* that we could not follow him as he performed his tricks.

diabolical *ADJ.* //devilish.

"What a fiend I am, to devise such a *diabolical* scheme to destroy Gotham City," chortled the Joker gleefully.

diagnosis *N.* //art of identifying a disease;

analysis of a condition. In medical school Margaret developed her skill at *diagnosis*, learning how to read volumes from a rapid pulse or a hacking cough. diagnose, *V.*; diagnostic, *ADJ.*

discomfit *V.* //put to rout;

defeat; disconcert. This ruse will *discomfit* the enemy. discomfiture, *N.* discomfited, *ADJ.*

discomposure *N.* //agitation;

loss of poise. Perpetually poised, Agent 007 never exhibited a moment's *discomposure*.

disconcert *V.* //confuse;

upset; embarrass. The lawyer was *disconcerted* by the evidence produced by her adversary.

disconsolate *ADJ.* //sad.

The death of his wife left him *disconsolate*.

discord *N.* //conflict;

lack of harmony. Watching Tweedledum battle Tweedledee, Alice wondered what had caused this pointless *discord*.

discordant *ADJ.* //not harmonious;

conflicting. Nothing is quite so *discordant* as the sound of a junior high school orchestra tuning up.

discount *V.* //disregard;

dismiss. Be prepared to *discount* what he has to say about his ex-wife.

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discourse *n.* // formal discussion;

conversation. The young Plato was drawn to the Agora to hear the philosophical *discourse* of Socrates and his followers. also *v.*

discredit *v.* // defame;

destroy confidence in; disbelieve. The campaign was highly negative in tone; each candidate tried to *discredit* the other.

discrepancy *n.* // lack of consistency;

difference. The police noticed some discrepancies in his description of the crime and did not believe him.

discrete *adj.* // separate;

unconnected. The universe is composed of discrete bodies.

discretion *n.* // prudence;

ability to adjust actions to circumstances. Use your *discretion* in this matter and do not discuss it with anyone. *discreet*, *adj.*

discriminating *adj.* // able to see differences;

prejudiced. A superb interpreter of Picasso, she was sufficiently *discriminating* to judge the most complex works of modern art. (secondary meaning) discrimination, *n.*

discursive *adj.* // digressing;

rambling. As the lecturer wandered from topic to topic, we wondered what if any point there was to his discursive remarks.

disdain *v.* // view with scorn or contempt.

In the film *Funny Face*, the bookish heroine *disdained* fashion models for their lack of intellectual interests. also *n.*

disembark *v.* // go ashore;

unload cargo from a ship. Before the passengers could *disembark*, they had to pick up their passports from the ship's purser.

disenfranchise *v.* // deprive of a civil right.

The imposition of the poll tax effectively *disenfranchised* poor Southern blacks, who lost their right to vote.

disengage *v.* // uncouple;

separate; disconnect. A standard movie routine involves the hero's desperate attempt to *disengage* a railroad car from a moving train.

disfigure *v.* // mar in beauty;

spoil. An ugly frown *disfigured* his normally pleasant face.

disgorge *v.* // surrender something;

eject; vomit. Unwilling to *disgorge* the cash he had stolen from the pension fund, the embezzler tried to run away.

disgruntle *v.* // make discontented.

The passengers were *disgruntled* by the numerous delays.