

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING -ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Word List 20

flippant ADJ. //lacking proper seriousness.

When Mark told Mona he loved her, she dismissed his earnest declaration with a flippant "Oh, you say that to all the girls!" flippancy, N.

flit V. //fly; dart lightly;

pass swiftly by. Like a bee flitting from flower to flower, Rose *flitted* from one boyfriend to the next.

floe N. //mass of floating ice.

The ship made slow progress as it battered its way through the ice floes.

flora N. //plants of a region or era.

Because she was a botanist, she spent most of her time studying the flora of the desert.

florid ADJ. //ruddy;

reddish; flowery. If you go to Florida and get a sunburn, your complexion will look florid.

flounder V. //struggle and thrash about; proceed clumsily or falter.

Up to his knees in the bog, Floyd *floundered* about, trying to regain his footing. Bewildered by the new software, Flo *floundered* until Jan showed her how to get started.

flourish V. //grow well;

prosper; decorate with ornaments. The orange trees *flourished* in the sun.

flout V. //reject;

mock. The headstrong youth *flouted* all authority; he refused to be curbed.

fluctuate V. //waver;

shift. The water pressure in our shower fluctuates wildly; you start rinsing yourself off with a trickle, and, two minutes later, a blast of water nearly knocks you down.

fluency N. //smoothness of speech.

He spoke French with *fluency* and ease.

fluke N. //unlikely occurrence;

stroke of fortune. When Douglas defeated Tyson for the heavyweight championship, some sportscasters dismissed his victory as a fluke.

fluster V. //confuse.

The teacher's sudden question flustered him and he stammered his reply.

flux N. //flowing; series of changes.

While conditions are in such a state of flux, I do not wish to commit myself too deeply in this affair.

fodder N. //coarse food for cattle,

horses, etc. One of Nancy's chores at the ranch was to put fresh supplies of *fodder* in the horses' stalls.

foible N. //weakness;

slight fault. We can overlook the *foibles* of our friends; no one is perfect.

foil N. //contrast. In Star Wars,

dark, evil Darth Vader is a perfect foil for fair-haired, naive Luke Skywalker.

foil V. //defeat;

frustrate. In the end, Skywalker is able to foil Vader's diabolical schemes.

foliage N. //masses of leaves.

Every autumn before the leaves fell he promised himself he would drive through New England to admire the colorful fall foliage.

foment V. //stir up; instigate.

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Cheryl's archenemy Heather spread some nasty rumors that *fomented* trouble in the club. Do you think Cheryl's foe meant to *foment* such discord?

foolhardy ADJ. //rash.

Don't be *foolhardy*. Get the advice of experienced people before undertaking this venture.

fop N. //dandy;

man excessively concerned with his clothes. People who dismissed young Mizrahi as a *fop* felt **chagrined** when he turned into one of the top fashion designers of his day. foppish,ADJ.

forbearance N. //patience.

We must use *forbearance* in dealing with him because he is still weak from his illness.

ford N. //place where a river can be crossed on foot.

Rather than risk using the shaky rope bridge, David walked a halfmile downstream until he came to the nearest *ford*. also v.

forebears N. //ancestors.

Reverence for one's *forebears* (sometimes referred to as ancestor worship) plays an important part in many Oriental cultures.

foreboding N. //premonition of evil.

Suspecting no conspiracies against him, Caesar gently ridiculed his wife's *forebodings* about the Ides of March.

forensic ADJ. //suitable to debate or courts of law.

In her best forensic manner, the lawyer addressed the jury. forensics, N.

foreshadow V. //give an indication beforehand;

portend; prefigure. In retrospect, political analysts realized that Yeltsin's defiance of the attempted coup *foreshadowed* his emergence as the dominant figure of the new Russian republic.

foresight N. //ability to foresee future happenings;

prudence. A wise investor, she had the foresight to buy land just before the current real estate boom.

forestall V. //prevent by taking action in advance.

By setting up a prenuptial agreement, the prospective bride and groom hoped to forestall any potential arguments about money in the event of a divorce.

forgo V. //give up;

do without. Determined to lose weight for the summer, Ida decided to forgo dessert until she could fit into a size eight again.

forlorn ADJ. //sad and lonely;

wretched. Deserted by her big sisters and her friends, the forlorn child sat sadly on the steps awaiting their return.

formality N. //ceremonious quality;

something done just for form's sake. The president received the visiting heads of state with due formality: flags waving, honor guards standing at attention, anthems sounding at full blast. Signing this petition is a mere formality; it does not obligate you in any way.

formidable ADJ. //menacing;

threatening. We must not treat the battle lightly for we are facing a *formidable* foe.

forsake V. //desert;

abandon; renounce. No one expected Foster to *forsake* his wife and children and run off with another woman.

forswear V. //renounce;

abandon. The captured knight could escape death only if he agreed to **forswear Christianity and embrace Islam as the one true faith.**

forte N. //strong point or special talent.

I am not eager to **play this rather serious role, for my forte** is comedy.

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forthright ADJ. / /outspoken;

straightforward; frank. Never afraid to call a spade a spade, she was perhaps too forthright to be a successful party politician.

fortitude N. / /bravery;

courage. He was awarded the medal for his *fortitude* in the battle.

fortuitous ADJ. / /accidental;

by chance. Though he pretended their encounter was fortuitous, he'd actually been hanging around her usual haunts for the past two weeks, hoping she'd turn up.

forum N. / /place of assembly to discuss public concerns;

meeting for discussion. The film opens with a shot of the ancient Forum in Rome, where several senators are discussing the strange new sect known as Christians. At the end of the movie, its director presided over a forum examining new fashions in filmmaking.

foster V. / /rear;

encourage. According to the legend, Romulus and Remus were *fostered* by a she-wolf who raised the abandoned infants with her own cubs. also ADJ.

founder V. / /fail completely;

sink. After hitting the submerged iceberg, the Titanic started taking in water rapidly and soon *foundered*.

founder N. / /person who establishes (an organization, business)

. Among those drowned when the *Titanic* sank was the *founder* of the Abraham & Straus department store.

fracas N. / /brawl,

melee. The military police stopped the fracas in the bar and arrested the belligerents.

fractious ADJ. / /unruly;

disobedient; irritable. Bucking and kicking, the fractious horse unseated its rider.

frail ADJ. / /weak.

The delicate child seemed too frail to lift the heavy carton. frailty, N.

franchise N. / /right granted by authority;

right to vote; business licensed to sell a product in a particular territory. The city issued a *franchise* to the company to operate surface transit lines on the streets for ninety-nine years. For most of American history women lacked the right to vote: not until the early twentieth century was the *franchise* granted to women. Stan owns a Carvel's ice cream *franchise* in Chinatown.

frantic ADJ. / /wild.

At the time of the collision, many people became *frantic* with fear.

fraternize V. / /associate in a friendly way.

After the game, the members of the two teams *fraternized* as cheerfully as if they had never been rivals.

fraudulent ADJ. / /cheating;

deceitful. The government seeks to prevent *fraudulent* and misleading advertising.

fraught ADJ. / /filled.

Since this enterprise is *fraught* with danger, I will ask for volunteers who are willing to assume the risks.

fray N. / /brawl.

The three musketeers were in the thick of the *fray*.

frenetic ADJ. / /frenzied;

frantic. His *frenetic* activities convinced us that he had no organized plan of operation.

frenzied ADJ. / /madly excited.

As soon as they smelled smoke, the *frenzied* animals milled about in their cages.

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fresco *n.* // painting on plaster (usually fresh).

The cathedral is visited by many tourists who wish to admire the *frescoes* by Giotto.

fret *v.* // to be annoyed or vexed

. To fret over your poor grades is foolish; instead, decide to work harder in the future.

friction *n.* // clash in opinion;

rubbing against. At this time when harmony is essential, we cannot afford to have any *friction* in our group.

frigid *adj.* // intensely cold.

Alaska is in the frigid zone.

frivolous *adj.* // lacking in seriousness;

self-indulgently carefree; relatively unimportant. Though Nancy enjoyed Bill's frivolous, lighthearted companionship, she sometimes wondered whether he could ever be serious. *frivolity*, *n.*

frolicsome *adj.* // prankish;

gay. The frolicsome puppy tried to lick the face of its master.

frond *n.* // fern leaf;

palm or banana leaf. After the storm the beach was littered with the *fronds* of palm trees.

frugality *n.* // thrift;

economy. In economically hard times, anyone who doesn't learn to practice frugality risks bankruptcy. *frugal*, *adj.*

fruition *n.* // bearing of fruit;

fulfillment; realization. This building marks the *fruition* of all our aspirations and years of hard work.

frustrate *v.* // thwart;

defeat. We must frustrate this dictator's plan to seize control of the government.

fugitive *adj.* // fleeting or transitory;

roving. The film brought a few fugitive images to her mind, but on the whole it made no lasting impression upon her.

fulcrum *n.* // support on which a lever rests.

If we use this stone as a fulcrum and the crowbar as a lever, we may be able to move this boulder.

fulsome *adj.* // disgustingly excessive.

His fulsome praise of the dictator revolted his listeners.

fundamental *v.* // basic;

primary; essential. The committee discussed all sorts of side issues without ever getting down to addressing the *fundamental* problem.

furlough *n.* // leave of absence;

vacation granted a soldier or civil servant. Dreaming of her loved ones back in the States, the young soldier could hardly wait for her upcoming furlough.

furor *n.* // frenzy;

great excitement. The story of her embezzlement of the funds created a furor on the Stock Exchange.

furtive *adj.* // stealthy;

sneaky. Noticing the furtive glance the customer gave the diamond bracelet on the counter, the jeweler wondered whether he had a potential shoplifter on his hands.

fusion *n.* // union;

coalition. The opponents of the political party in power organized a fusion of disgruntled groups and became an important element in the election.

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futile ADJ. / /useless;

hopeless; ineffectual. It is futile for me to try to get any work done around here while the telephone is ringing every thirty seconds.
futility, N.

gadfly N. / /animal-biting fly; an irritating person.

Like a gadfly, he irritated all the guests at the hotel; within forty-eight hours, everyone regarded him as an annoying busybody.

gaffe N. / /social blunder.

According to Miss Manners, to call your husband by your lover's name is worse than a mere gaffe; it is a tactical mistake.

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