

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING -ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Word List 23

hibernal ADJ. // wintry.

Bears prepare for their long *hibernal* sleep by overeating.

hibernate v. // sleep throughout the winter.

Bears are one of the many species of animals that *hibernate*. hibernation, N.

hierarchy N. // arrangement by rank or standing;

authoritarian body divided into ranks. To be low man on the totem pole is to have an inferior place in the *hierarchy*.

hilarity N. // boisterous mirth.

This hilarity is improper on this solemn day of mourning.

hindrance N. // block;

obstacle. Stalled cars along the highway are a *hindrance* to traffic that tow trucks should remove without delay. hinder, V.

histrionic ADJ. // theatrical.

He was proud of his *histrionic* ability and wanted to play the role of Hamlet, histrionics, N.

hoard V. // stockpile;

accumulate for future use. Whenever there are rumors of a food shortage, many people are tempted to hoard food. also N.

hoary ADJ. // white with age.

The man was hoary and wrinkled when he was 70.

hoax N. // trick;

practical joke. Embarrassed by the hoax, he reddened and left the room. also V.

hodgepodge N. // jumble;

mixture of ill-suited elements. The reviewer roundly condemned the play as a *hodgepodge* of **random** and purposeless encounters carried out by a cast lacking any uniformity of accent or style.

holster N. // pistol case.

Even when he was not in uniform, he carried a holster and pistol under his arm.

homage N. // honor;

tribute. In her speech she tried to pay homage to a great man.

homogeneous ADJ. // of the same kind.

Because the student body at Elite Prep was so homogeneous, Sara and James decided to send their daughter to a school that offered greater cultural diversity. homogenize, V.

hone V. // sharpen.

To make shaving easier, he *honed* his razor with great care.

hoodwink V. // deceive;

delude. Having been *hoodwinked* once by the fast-talking salesman, he was extremely cautious when he went to purchase a used car.

horde N. // crowd.

Just before Christmas the stores are filled with *hordes* of shoppers.

horticultural ADJ. // pertaining to cultivation of gardens.

When he bought his house, he began to look for flowers and decorative shrubs, and began to read books dealing with horticultural matters.

host N. // great number;

person entertaining guests; animal or plant from which a parasite gets its nourishment. You must attend to a host of details if you wish to succeed as host of a formal dinner party. Leeches are parasites that cling to their hosts and drink their hosts' blood.

hostility N. // unfriendliness;

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING -ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Word List 23

hatred. A child who has been the sole object of his parents' affection often feels hostility toward a new baby in the family, resenting the newcomer who has taken his place.

hovel *n.* //shack;

small, wretched house. He wondered how poor people could stand living in such a hovel.

hover *v.* //hang about;

wait nearby. The police helicopter *hovered* above the accident.

hue *n.* //color;

aspect. The aviary contained birds of every possible hue.

hulking *adj.* //massive;

bulky; great in size. Despite his *hulking* build, the heavyweight boxing champion was surprisingly light on his feet. *hulk*, *n.*

humane *adj.* //marked by kindness or consideration.

It is ironic that the *Humane* Society sometimes must show its compassion toward mistreated animals by killing them to put them out of their misery.

humdrum *adj.* //dull;

monotonous. After his years of adventure, he could not settle down to a *humdrum* existence.

humid *adj.* //damp.

She could not stand the *humid* climate and moved to a drier area.

humility *n.* //humbleness of spirit.

He spoke with a *humility* and lack of pride that impressed his listeners.

hurtle *v.* //crash;

rush. The runaway train *hurtled* toward disaster.

husband *v.* //use sparingly;

conserve; save. Marathon runners must *husband* their energy so that they can keep going for the entire distance.

hybrid *n.* //mongrel;

mixed breed. Mendel's formula explains the appearance of *hybrids* and pure species in breeding. also *adj.*

hydrophobia *n.* //rabies;

fear of water. A dog that bites a human being must be observed for symptoms of *hydrophobia*.

hyperbole *n.* //exaggeration;

overstatement. As far as I'm concerned, Apple's claims about the new computer are pure *hyperbole*: no machine is that good!

hypercritical *adj.* //excessively exacting.

You are *hypercritical* in your demands for perfection; we all make mistakes.

hypochondriac *n.* //person unduly worried about his health;

worrier without cause about illness. The doctor prescribed chocolate pills for his patient who was a *hypochondriac*.

hypocritical *adj.* //pretending to be virtuous;

deceiving. Believing Eddie to be interested only in his own advancement, Greg resented his *hypocritical* posing as a friend. *hypocrisy*, *n.*

hypothetical *adj.* //based on assumptions or hypotheses;

supposed. Suppose you are accepted by Harvard, Stanford, and Brown. Which one would you choose to attend? Remember, this is only a *hypothetical* situation. *hypothesis*, *n.*

ichthyology *n.* //study of fish.

Jacques Cousteau's programs about sea life have advanced the cause of *ichthyology*

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING -ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Word List 23

icon *n.* //religious image;

idol. The icons on the walls of the church were painted in the 13th century.

iconoclastic *ADJ.* //attacking cherished traditions.

Deeply iconoclastic, Jean Genet deliberately set out to shock conventional theatergoers with his radical plays.

ideology *n.* //system of ideas of a group.

For people who had grown up believing in the communist ideology, it was hard to adjust to capitalism.

idiom *n.* //expression whose meaning as a whole differs from the meanings of its individual words; distinctive style. The phrase "to lose one's marbles" is an idiom: if I say that Joe's lost his marbles, I'm not asking you to find some for him. I'm telling you idiomatically that he's crazy.

idiosyncrasy *n.* //individual trait, usually odd in nature;

eccentricity. One of Richard Nixon's little idiosyncrasies was his liking for ketchup on cottage cheese. One of Hannibal Lecter's little idiosyncrasies was his liking for human flesh. idiosyncratic,*ADJ.*

idolatry *n.* //worship of idols;

excessive admiration. Such idolatry of singers of country music is typical of the excessive enthusiasm of youth.

ignite *v.* //kindle;

light. When Desi crooned, "Baby, light my fire," literal-minded Lucy looked around for some paper to ignite.

ignoble *ADJ.* //of lowly origin;

unworthy. This plan is inspired by ignoble motives and I must, therefore, oppose it.

ignominy *n.* //deep disgrace;

shame or dishonor. To lose the Ping-Pong match to a trained chimpanzee! How could Rollo stand the *ignominy* of his defeat? ignominious,*ADJ.*

illicit *ADJ.* //illegal.

The defense attorney maintained that his client had never performed any illicit action.

illimitable *ADJ.* //infinite.

Man, having explored the far corners of the earth, is now reaching out into *illimitable* space.

illuminate *v.* //brighten;

clear up or make understandable; enlighten. Just as a lamp can illuminate a dark room, a perceptive comment can illuminate a knotty problem.

illusion *n.* //misleading vision.

It is easy to create an optical illusion in which lines of equal length appear different.

illusory *ADJ.* //deceptive;

not real. Unfortunately, the costs of running the lemonade stand were so high that Tom's profits proved illusory.

imbalance *n.* //lack of balance or symmetry;

disproportion. To correct racial *imbalance* in the schools, school boards have bussed black children into white neighborhoods and white children into black ones.

imbibe *v.* //drink in.

The dry soil *imbibed* the rain quickly.