

Session One

Saturate	Sophisticated	Withstand
Abundant	Successive	Enhance
Consolidate	Ambiguous	Acclaim
Champion(v.)	Intrusive	Profound
Abandon	Formidable	Prevailing

Word 1: saturate

- ▶ Saturate: soak: drench*
- ▶ to make something very wet [= soak; ≠ dry]:
- ▶ Water poured through the hole and saturated the carpet.
- ▶ Most TV channels are saturated with ads.(adjective)
- ▶ His T-shirt was saturated with sweat.(adjective)
- ▶ *Drenched in sth

Word 2: Abundant

- ▶ Abundant: plentiful: adequate: ample: rich # scarce
- ▶ Abundant supplies/ opportunities/ work force(adjective)
- ▶ You can find the material in abundance in this region.(noun)
- ▶ Examples of this reason abound. (verb)

Word 3: Consolidate

- ▶ Consolidate: strengthen: fortify: stabilize
- ▶ Samsung tries to consolidate its position in the market through introducing user-friendly smartphones. (verb)
- ▶ You need to consolidate your language learning though regular practice.
- ▶ Further consolidations in political power might follow the coup.(Noun)

Word 4: Champion(v.)

- ▶ Champion (v.): support: advocate: back: espouse
- ▶ This idea has been widely championed by academicians.(Verb)

Word 5: Abandon

- ▶ Abandon: leave: desert
- ▶ Abandon your family/ city/ country/ house/ attempts to do sth/ the idea of sth
- ▶ Fearing further attacks, most of the population had abandoned the city. (Verb)
- ▶ There were lots of abandoned houses in the district.(Adjective)
- ▶ Government's abandonment of the policy was criticized. (Noun)

POP QUIZ

- ▶ Fill in blanks using the following words:

▶ Abundant Championed Abandon Saturated Consolidated

- ▶ 1. Because of the fog they.....their idea of driving.
- ▶ 2. During the 18th century land was cheap, grain was plentiful, and meat was.....
- ▶ 3. The company is planning to its business activities at a new site in Arizona.
- ▶ 4. The hypothesis wasby Piaget.
- ▶ 5. Heavy rains had.....the ground, turning the streets into rivers.

Word 6: *Sophisticated*

- ▶ Sophisticated: cultivated: refined: urbane
- ▶ Complex: complicated: intricate
- ▶ Sophisticated cutting-edge tablets
- ▶ He is recognized as a highly sophisticated university professor.(adjective)
- ▶ Tourists have been amazed by the sophistication of this rich cosmopolitan city. (Noun)

Word 7: *Successive*

- ▶ Successive: consecutive: in sequence
- ▶ Successive classes left him absolutely worn-out. (adjective)
- ▶ Successive governments have tried to deal with this issue. (adjective)
- ▶ A succession of visitors came to the door. (Noun)
- ▶ If the prince dies, the succession passes to his son. (Noun)
- ▶ She won the championship four times in succession. (Noun)
- ▶ Who will succeed him to the throne? (verb)

Word 8: *Ambiguous*

- ▶ Ambiguous: indefinite: dubious: equivocal: enigmatic: vague: obscure
- ▶ The poem is highly ambiguous and open to various interpretations. (adjective)
- ▶ The rules are ambiguously worded. (adverb)
- ▶ There was an element of ambiguity in the president's reply. (Noun)

Word 9: *Intrusive*

- ▶ Intrusive: interfering: meddlesome
- ▶ The paparazzi can be intrusive at times. (Adjective)
- ▶ I resented this intrusion into/upon/on my personal affairs.(Noun)
- ▶ Governments should not intrude into/on/upon the private lives of their citizens.(Verb)

Word 10: *Formidable*

- ▶ Formidable: terrifying: intimidating: fearful: dismaying
- ▶ You have to deal with the formidable task of scoring high on TOEFL iBT. (adjective)
- ▶ A formidable challenge in your life was ...(adjective)
- ▶ The formidability of the issue prevented any further progress. (Noun)

POP QUIZ

1. The underlined word is closest in meaning to.....

- ▶ Eye operations often involve the use of highly sophisticated equipment, such as lasers.
- ▶ A. timid
- ▶ B. ambitious
- ▶ C. advanced
- ▶ D. controversial

2. The underlined word is closest in meaning to.....

- ▶ The expense of moving a family to the ever-receding frontier exceeded the means of many, and the cost of tools draft animals, a wagon, a well, fencing, and of building the simplest house, might come to \$1,000---a formidable barrier.
- ▶ (A) obvious
- ▶ (B) predictable
- ▶ (C) difficult
- ▶ (D) manageable

3. The underlined word is closest in meaning to.....

- ▶ In the first place, most of its key concepts are essentially ambiguous.
- ▶ A. impressive
- ▶ B. well-defined
- ▶ C. Crucial
- ▶ D. Vague

4. The underlined word is closest in meaning to.....

- ▶ Companies should not have the right to intrude into employees' personal lives by giving them psychological tests.
- ▶ A. Persist
- ▶ B. Interfere
- ▶ C. Judge
- ▶ D. Persuade

Word 11: withstand

- ▶ Withstand: endure: resist: bear: tolerate
- ▶ This fabric can withstand steam and high temperatures.
- ▶ The bridge is built to withstand an earthquake of 8.3 magnitude.
- ▶ Exercise helps you enormously withstand stresses and strains more easily.

Word 12: Enhance

- ▶ Enhance: boost: improve: heighten: elevate
- ▶ The publicity has enhanced his reputation. (Verb)
- ▶ Rich vocabulary will enhance your reading skill. (Verb)
- ▶ Performance-enhancing drugs are strictly forbidden. (adjective)
- ▶ Recent improvements in Internet have led to enhanced access to websites. (adjective)
- ▶ flavor enhancers (noun)
- ▶ Music is an enhancement to her brilliant performance. (Noun)

Word 13: Acclaim

- ▶ Acclaim: praise: compliment: applaud: honor
- ▶ This movie has been widely acclaimed by film critics. (Verb)
- ▶ He published a paper which won great acclaim among the academicians. (Noun: acclamation)
- ▶ The book has been widely/ universally/ highly acclaimed by teachers and pupils. (adjective)

Word 14: Profound

- ▶ Profound: intense: extreme: acute
- ▶ a profound effect/influence/impact/consequence/ question/ thinker/ change(adjective)
- ▶ Widespread crackdown had a profound effect on people's dissatisfaction with the government. (adjective)

Word 15: Prevailing

- ▶ Prevailing: prevalent: widespread: customary: popular: usual: predominant
- ▶ The prevailing economic conditions are not favorable.(adjective)
- ▶ Justice will prevail.(Verb)
- ▶ Your inner strength will enable you to prevail over/against life's obstacles. (verb)
- ▶ She prevailed upon her father to say nothing.(verb)
- ▶ The prevalent beliefs in superstitions really bothered him. (adjective)

POP QUIZ

- ▶ Define the underlined words.
- ▶ 1. Burton's lecture was amusing as well as being profound.
- ▶ 2. An epidemic of such proportions that nothing could withstand it.
- ▶ 3. You can enhance the flavor of most dishes with the careful use of herbs.
- ▶ 4. The prevailing mood of public opinion remained hostile.
- ▶ 5. Talen's last play was acclaimed by the critics as a masterpiece.

Session Two

Shortcoming	Bizarre	Commence	Obsolete	Susceptible
Elaborate	Suppress	Lucrative	Plague	Fragile
Secluded	Intensify	Coincide	Abrupt	Massive

Word 1: **Shortcoming**

- ▶ **Shortcoming**: imperfection: flaw: weakness: defect: fault
- ▶ Peter was painfully aware of his own **shortcomings**. (Noun)
- ▶ The report suggested that there were severe **shortcomings** in police tactics. (noun)

Word 2: **Elaborate**

- ▶ Adjective: detailed: precise: thorough: complete
- ▶ Verb: expand: amplify
- ▶ The city is equipped with a very **elaborate** telecommunications network. (Adjective)
- ▶ She had an **elaborate** lecture on the topic. (adjective)
- ▶ McDonald refused to **elaborate** on his reasons for resigning. (Verb)
- ▶ Would you please **elaborate** on that topic? (Verb)
- ▶ He will some further **elaboration** on the topic. (Noun)

Word 3: **Secluded**

- ▶ **Secluded**: Private: solitary: sheltered: lonely
- ▶ **secluded** garden/spot/beach etc
- ▶ He's 80 years old now and lives a very **secluded** life.
- ▶ He preferred to stay at home in **seclusion**.

Word 4: **Bizarre**

- ▶ **Bizarre**: unusual, strange, odd, extraordinary, exceptional, remarkable: weird
- ▶ They had worn **bizarre** costumes. (adjective)
- ▶ It was rather a **bizarre** coincidence. (adjective)

Word 5: **Suppress**

- ▶ **Suppress**: oppress: crush: stifle
- ▶ The uprising was ruthlessly **suppressed**. (Verb)
- ▶ Harry could scarcely **suppress** a smile. (Verb)
- ▶ You should **suppress** your emotions. (Verb)
- ▶ The virus **suppresses** the body's immune system. (Verb)
- ▶ There was a shocking **suppression** of the opposition parties. (Noun)

POP QUIZ

- ▶ Find the correct synonym.

Suppress	Unleash
Bizarre	Defect
Secluded	Plentiful
Elaborate	Detached
Shortcoming	Strange
	Comprehensive
	Restrict

Word 6: **Intensify**

- ▶ to increase: deepen: escalate: strengthen
- ▶ In June, the civil war **intensified**.
- ▶ His mother's death **intensified his loneliness**.
- ▶ China is **intensifying efforts** to fight crime.
- ▶ Winds **intensified** during the afternoon.
- ▶ Adjectives: intense- intensive

Word 7: **Commence**

- ▶ Begin: start: initiate
- ▶ Work will **commence** on the new building immediately.
- ▶ Your first evaluation will be six months after you **commence** employment.
- ▶ The planes **commenced** bombing at midnight.

Word 8: **Lucrative**

- ▶ Profitable: advantageous: fruitful
- ▶ Catering is a very lucrative business if you succeed in it.
- ▶ A lucrative job/ business

Word 9: **Coincide**

- ▶ Coincide: concur
- ▶ **coincide with**
- ▶ His entry to the party **coincided with** his marriage.
- ▶ Noun: coincidence
- ▶ **by coincidence**
- ▶ **By coincidence**, John and I both ended up at Yale.
- ▶ It was **sheer/pure coincidence**.

Word 10: **Obsolete**

- ▶ **Antiquated: archaic: outdated**
- ▶ **obsolete** weapons
- ▶ computer hardware that quickly became **obsolete**
- ▶ Will computers render (=make) books **obsolete**?

POP QUIZ

- ▶ *Define the bold-faced words.*
- ▶ 1. Transferred from Barcelona to Naples, Maradona signed a highly **lucrative** three-year contract.
- ▶ 2. In the excitement as the applause **commenced**, nobody had noticed Stafford slipping out of the lecture hall.
- ▶ 3. Floppy disks are now **obsolete**.
- ▶ 4. The show is timed to **coincide with** the launch of a new book.
- ▶ 5. Police have now **intensified** the search for the lost child.

Word 11: **Plague**

- ▶ Bother: annoy: make suffer: harass
- ▶ He was **plagued by** eye troubles.
- ▶ Financial problems continued to **plague** the company.
- ▶ The kids have been **plaguing me with** questions.

Word 12: **Abrupt**

- ▶ Sudden: unexpected: quick
- ▶ There was an **abrupt change** of plan.
- ▶ He left the class **abruptly**.
- ▶ His **abruptness** irked her.
- ▶ Sorry, I didn't mean to be so **abrupt**.

Word 13: **Susceptible**

- ▶ Prone: vulnerable: suggestible
- ▶ Older people are more **susceptible to** infections.

