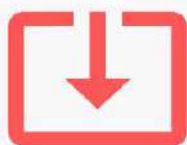


PRACTICE **MOCK**

A Guide to Master Your Vocabulary



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The importance of English can't be undermined for banking aspirants. Vocabulary-based questions are those kinds of questions which take some efforts to master. But once mastered, the questions would take minimal time and can be solved with high accuracy. Questions related to vocabulary can be answered in one shot without much deliberation. Either you know the meaning of a word or you don't know it. Several sections where your vocabulary comes into the picture are direct questions on synonym-antonym, RC based questions on synonym-antonym, cloze test, fill in the blanks and word-pair relationship.

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Read, Recall, Repeat

It happens often that you are reading something and you stumble upon a word whose meaning you don't understand. You find that word in the dictionary but there is more than one meaning to it. You face a lot of questions here. Which word should you take into consideration? Do you have to memorize all the words? What you should do here is to consider the "sense" a word connotes in that particular context. You will get the sense of any word by glancing through the different words the meaning offers. At the same time, you should try getting the meaning of the whole sentence keeping in mind that contextual sense.

Getting the sense of a word

Say you come across the sentence, "The **spurt** in growth in the past quarter, after eight quarters, marked by a rise in manufacturing and construction, maybe

because it comes off a low base last year." and you don't know the meaning of "spurt". You look out for the meaning and come across these terms:

- to burst or pour out suddenly
- to produce sudden, powerful streams of liquid or flames
- to increase your speed for a short time to get somewhere faster

You know that in the sentence, **spurt** relates to **increase in short duration** especially when it talks about "rise in manufacturing and construction" and "comes off a **low base** last year". Now, the next time when you come across the word spurt, you will know that the sense of this word is something related to getting a quick speed. In another scenario, you may not be able to recall the word and have to visit a dictionary once again. But fret not, slowly and steadily you will be able to remember and recall senses of words. Obviously, you need to read a lot to master this technique but the fruit is worthy enough to put all of these efforts.

Which dictionary to use?

There are a host of dictionaries available nowadays. The availability of offline and online dictionaries on mobile phones makes the situation further complicated. Which one should you go for? We suggest you go for a physical copy of a learner's dictionary. Learner's dictionary is for non-native speakers of English, and the meaning of any word is explained in the simplest form. In other words, you get to know the sense of a word easily when you use a learner's dictionary. You can also use a mobile phone as a dictionary but only when it doesn't distract you.

The family of root words

Getting introduced to this family will definitely help you to some extent. For eg., if you have observed the word "democracy" you discover in a dictionary that the sense of this word is a government that is elected by the citizens. If you delve further, the root words come out to be the Greek words "*demos*" (people) and "*kratia*" (rule or power). Other words which have the same root words are **demographic**, **pandemonium**, **autocracy**, **aristocracy** and **bureaucracy**. One word and looking out for the family has fetched you the sense of five more words. The interesting fact is that they are all related to the meaning of the original root words.

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Questions on synonym-antonym

If you have a fairly good command over vocabulary, the direct questions on synonym-antonym will be your direct hit. You get to know in 4-5 seconds whether you know the answer or not. However, answering questions on synonym-antonym which are based on an RC passage will be a different ballgame. Since a word may have more than one meaning, you need to check the passage to see which contextual sense is going to be used and answer accordingly. The preceding and succeeding sentences of the passage can also give you some idea of answering these questions.

Cloze Test

Cloze test provides a passage with a number of blanks and for each blank, there are 5 options. You need to choose the right option for each blank. Obviously, context plays a role in shortlisting the options but you need to know the inherent meaning and sense of all the options so that you fill the blank with the right option.

Word-pair relationship

These questions display 2 words as an example and you are given five options with 2 words in each of the options. You are further asked to select that set of words which has the same logical connection as that of the displayed word pair. Vocabulary again plays a major role here as the words are given without any context.

Vocabulary Questions for Practice

Directions (Qs. 1): In the question below, a word is given followed by four options that depict different contextual meanings of the word. Choose the option that gives an incorrect meaning of the word. In the case that all the options provide correct meanings of the word, choose option E, i.e. 'All are correct'.

Question 1

Yield

- a) produce or provide (a natural, agricultural, or industrial product)
- b) give way to arguments, demands, or pressure
- c) amount of food produced on an area of land
- d) profit produced by an investment
- e) a form of protest

Ans: E

Solution: E is the right answer. YIELD does not refer to a form of protest in any context.

YIELD means to produce or provide (a natural, agricultural, or industrial product).

E.g.: Last year 400,000 acres of land yielded a crop worth \$1.75 billion.

YIELD means to give way to arguments, demands, or pressure. E.g.: The Director is now under pressure to yield power to the shareholders.

YIELD means the amount of food produced on an area of land. E.g.: Polluted water lessens crop yields.

YIELD is the amount of money or profit produced by an investment. E.g.: The high yields available on the dividend shares made them attractive to private investors.

Directions (Qs. 2): In the question below, a word is given followed by 4 pairs of words. From the options, select the one that provides the combination of pairs in which the first word is a synonym and the second is an antonym.

Question 2

Onerous

1. Strenuous: Effortless
2. Arduous: Facile
3. Strident: Lenient
4. Stringent: Strict

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 2 and 4
- d) 1 and 4
- e) 3 and 4

Ans: A

Solution: A is the right answer. ONEROUS means (of a task or responsibility) involving a great deal of effort, trouble, or difficulty. In 1 STRENUOUS (requiring or using great effort or exertion) is a synonym and EFFORTLESS (requiring no physical or mental exertion) is an antonym. In 2, ARDUOUS (involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring.) is a synonym and FACILE (ignoring the true complexities of an issue) is an antonym.

In 3, STRIDENT means (of a sound) loud and harsh; grating. LENIENT means (of a punishment or person in authority) more merciful or tolerant than expected.

In 4, STRINGENT means (of regulations, requirements, or conditions) strict, precise, and exacting. STRICT means demanding that rules concerning behaviour are obeyed and observed.

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Directions (Qs. 3-4): In the question below, a pair of words is given. From the options, choose the one that is either a synonym for the first word of the pair and an antonym for the second OR is a synonym for both words of the pair.

Question 3

Ostensibly: apparently

- a) alarmingly
- b) destructively
- c) seemingly
- d) flexibly
- e) instinctively

Ans: C

Solution: OSTENSIBLY and APPARENTLY mean something that appears to be the case, but not necessarily so. SEEMINGLY is a synonym to both words. Thus, C is the right answer.

Alarmingly - frighteningly. Destructively - with an intention or tendency to destroy or harm. Flexibly - easily changing. Instinctively - happening by instinct or impulse.

Question 4

Vulnerable: resistant

- a) susceptible
- b) diabolical
- c) astonishing
- d) distressing
- e) encountered

Ans: A

Solution: VULNERABLE means exposed to the possibility of being attacked or hurt, while RESISTANT is its antonym and means immune or protected. SUSCEPTIBLE is a synonym to VULNERABLE and an antonym to RESISTANT. Thus, A is the right answer.

Diabolical - characteristic of the devil. Astonishing - surprising. Distressing - upsetting. Encountered - met or faced.

Directions (Qs. 5): In the question below, a sentence is given with a blank. From the options, choose the word whose antonym can fit in the blank contextually.

Question 5

It is an admirable quality to be _____ to your job so much, however, being only invested in your career can be damaging to both your professional and personal life.

- a) detached
- b) exhausted
- c) comforted
- d) preserved
- e) dissipated

Ans: A

Solution: The sentence talks about an admirable quality, which implies that a positive quality must be discussed. The second half of the sentence talks about being invested solely in one's career. DETACHED means aloof, and its antonym will be DEVOTED, which can fit in the sentence contextually. Thus, A is the right answer.

The antonyms of the other words are: Exhausted - energised, comforted - discomforted, preserved - wasted, dissipated - concentrated.

Vocabulary Questions for Practice

Directions (Qs. 1-2): In each of the questions below, a word is given followed by four words, two of which may or may not share a synonymous or antonymous relationship with the given word. From the given options, choose the one that provides the correct pair of synonyms or antonyms.

Question 1

Aberration

1. Anomaly
2. Arousal
3. Incongruity
4. Hateful

- a) 1 and 4
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 2 and 4
- e) 3 and 4

Ans: C

Solution: Aberration – departure from what is considered normal, usual or expected. Both ANOMALY and INCONGRUITY are synonyms. Thus, C is the right answer.

Arousal – the physiological and psychological state of being awake. Hateful – filled with hatred.

Question 2

Acrimonious

- 1. Portentous
 - 2. Rancorous
 - 3. Scathing

 - 4. Amenity
- a) 3 and 4
 - b) 2 and 3
 - c) 1 and 3
 - d) 1 and 2
 - e) 1 and 4

Ans: B

Solution: Acrimonious – angry and bitter, typically used with reference to speech or debate. Both RANCOROUS and SCATHING are synonyms. Thus, B is the right answer.

Portentous – predictive or ominous. Amenity - facility.

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Directions (Qs. 3-5): In the question below, four words are given, two of which may or may not share a synonymous or antonymous relationship. From the given options, choose the one that provides the correct pair of synonyms or antonyms.

Question 3

1. judicious
 2. wise
 3. foolproof
 4. furious
- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 and 4
 - c) 3 and 4
 - d) 1 and 4
 - e) 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

Solution: JUDICIOUS means having, showing, or done with good judgement or sense. WISE means having or showing experience, knowledge, and good judgement. Thus, these two words are synonymous.

Foolproof-incapable of going wrong or being misused, Furious-extremely angry. Thus, option (a) is the right answer.

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Question 4

1. endeavour
 2. survey
 3. troop
 4. venture
- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 and 4
 - c) 3 and 4
 - d) 1 and 4
 - e) 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

Solution: ENDEAVOUR means an attempt to achieve a goal. VENTURE means an activity or plan of action, often in business, that involves risk or uncertainty.

Thus, these two words are synonymous.

Survey-a general view, examination, or description of someone or something.,

Troop- soldiers or armed forces.

Thus, option (d) is the right answer.

Question 5

1. production
 2. ruckus
 3. accommodation
 4. commotion
- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 and 4
 - c) 3 and 4
 - d) 1 and 4
 - e) 2 and 3

Ans: (e)

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Solution: COMMOTION means a state of confused and noisy disturbance. RUCKUS means noisy confusion. Thus, these two words are synonymous.

Production- the action of making or manufacturing from components or raw materials, or the process of being so manufactured., Accommodation- the available space for occupants in a building, vehicle, or vessel.

Thus, option (e) is the right answer.

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