List of 100 Important English Vocabulary (Meaning-Usage) Reference “The Hindu”

1). Monologue
Meaning: Speech, Lecture
Definition: A long speech by one actor in a play or film, or as part of a theatrical or broadcast programme.
Usage: He was reciting some of the great monologues of Shakespeare.

2). Quadruped
Meaning: Four
Definition: An animal which has four feet, especially an ungulate mammal.
Usage: Smell is so important to quadrupeds.

3). Antechamber
Meaning: Before
Definition: A small room leading to a main one.
Usage: The antechamber to an interview room.

4). Precede
Meaning: go in advance of, lead up to
Definition: Come before (something) in time.
Usage: A clever advertising campaign preceded the film.

5). Intravenous
Meaning: Within
Definition: Existing or taking place within, or administered into, a vein or veins.
Usage: She could not eat and had to be fed intravenously for three days.

6). Expel
Meaning: throw out, push out
Definition: Officially make (someone) leave a school or other organization.
Usage: The opposition leader was expelled from her party.

7). Consensus
Meaning: With, together
Definition: A general agreement.
Usage: There is a growing consensus that the current regime has failed.

8). Contradict
Meaning: Against
Definition: Deny the truth of (a statement) by asserting the opposite.
Usage: The survey appears to contradict the industry's claims.

9). Pseudonym
Meaning: false, fake
Definition: A fictitious name, especially one used by an author.
Usage: I wrote under the pseudonym of Evelyn Hervey.

10). Cohesive
Meaning: together, jointly
Definition: Characterized by or causing cohesion.
Usage: Each parish was formerly a cohesive unit.

11). Broaden
Meaning: Widen, Expand
Definition: become larger in distance from side to side; widen.
Usage: Her smile broadened.

12). Resuscitate
Meaning: Bring round, revive
Definition: revive (someone) from unconsciousness or apparent death.
Usage: An ambulance crew tried to resuscitate him.
13). **Aristocratic**  
**Meaning:** noble, high-born  
**Definition:** of, belonging to, or typical of the aristocracy.  
**Usage:** An aristocratic family.

14). **Verbatim**  
**Meaning:** word for word, letter for letter  
**Definition:** in exactly the same words as were used originally.  
**Usage:** Subjects were instructed to recall the passage verbatim.

15). **Erroneous**  
**Meaning:** wrong, incorrect  
**Definition:** invalid, wrong.  
**Usage:** Employers sometimes make erroneous assumptions.

16). **Grotesque**  
**Meaning:** malformed, deformed  
**Definition:** comically or repulsively ugly or distorted.  
**Usage:** A figure wearing a grotesque mask.

17). **Garbled**  
**Meaning:** mix up, jumble  
**Definition:** reproduce (a message, sound, or transmission) in a confused and distorted way.  
**Usage:** The message was garbled in transmission.

18). **Coerce**  
**Meaning:** pressure, press, push  
**Definition:** persuade (an unwilling person) to do something by using force or threats.  
**Usage:** He was coerced into giving evidence.

19). **Abrupt**  
**Meaning:** sudden, immediate  
**Definition:** sudden and unexpected.  
**Usage:** I was surprised by the abrupt change of subject.

20). **Apathy**  
**Meaning:** indifferent, lack of interest  
**Definition:** lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern.  
**Usage:** Widespread apathy among students.

21). **Contemptuous**  
**Meaning:** Scornful, disdainful, disrespectful  
**Definition:** showing contempt; scornful.  
**Usage:** She was intolerant and contemptuous of the majority of the human race.

22). **Astute**  
**Meaning:** sharp, quick, bright  
**Definition:** having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage.  
**Usage:** He had a reputation as an astute businessman.

23). **Distinct**  
**Meaning:** clear, well defined  
**Definition:** recognizably different in nature from something else of a similar type.  
**Usage:** The patterns of spoken language are distinct from those of writing.

24). **Flagrant**  
**Meaning:** blatant, glaring, obvious  
**Definition:** (of an action considered wrong or immoral) conspicuously or obviously offensive.  
**Usage:** A flagrant disregard for human rights.

25). **Oration**  
**Meaning:** speech, address, talk
Definition: a formal speech, especially one given on a ceremonial occasion.
Usage: His eloquent funeral oration.

26). Libel
Meaning: defamation, misrepresentation
Definition: a published false statement that is damaging to a person's reputation; a written defamation.
Usage: He was found guilty of a libel on a Liverpool inspector of taxes.

27). Philanthropy
Meaning: charity, humanity, kindness
Definition: the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.
Usage: He acquired a considerable fortune and was noted for his philanthropy.

28). Proximity
Meaning: nearness, presence
Definition: nearness in space, time, or relationship.
Usage: Do not operate microphones in close proximity to television sets.

29). Insipid
Meaning: tasteless, unflavoured
Definition: lacking flavour; weak or tasteless.
Usage: They drank endless mugs of insipid coffee.

30). Vigilant
Meaning: watchful, observant
Definition: keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties.
Usage: The burglar was spotted by vigilant neighbours.

31). Malicious
Meaning: spiteful, malevolent, hostile, bitter
Definition: Characterized by malice; intending or intended to do harm.
Usage: He was found guilty of malicious damage.

32). Collaborate
Meaning: work jointly on an activity or project
Definition: cooperate, get together.
Usage: India has collaborated with several nations on space projects.

33). Obsolete
Meaning: out of date, outdated, outmoded
Definition: no longer produced or used; out of date.
Usage: The disposal of old and obsolete machinery.

34). Arouse
Meaning: cause, induce, prompt
Definition: evoke or awaken (a feeling, emotion, or response).
Usage: Something about the man aroused the guard's suspicions.

35). Harass
Meaning: pester, badger, hound,
Definition: subject to aggressive pressure or intimidation.
Usage: Children always harass their mother.

36). Fortified
Meaning: secure, protect, surround
Definition: provide (a place) with defensive works as protection against attack.
Usage: The knights fortified their citadel as a defence against raids.

37). Delegate
Meaning: representative, envoy, emissary
Definition: a person sent or authorized to represent others, in particular an elected representative sent to a conference.
Usage: Congress delegates rejected the proposals.

38). Compensate
Meaning: recompense, repay, pay back
**Definition:** give (someone) something, typically money, in recognition of loss, suffering, or injury incurred; recompense.

**Usage:** Payments were made to farmers to compensate them for cuts in subsidies.

39). **Croon**

**Meaning:** sing softly, hum, lilt, carol,

**Definition:** hum or sing in a soft, low voice, especially in a sentimental manner.

**Usage:** She was crooning to the child.

40). **Obscure**

**Meaning:** unclear, uncertain, unknown

**Definition:** not discovered or known about; uncertain.

**Usage:** He was born about 1650 though his origins and parentage remain obscure.

41). **Haggard**

**Meaning:** unwell, unhealthy, sickly

**Definition:** looking exhausted and unwell, especially from fatigue, worry, or suffering.

**Usage:** She was pale and haggard.

42). **Enigma**

**Meaning:** mystery, puzzle, riddle.

**Definition:** a person or thing that is mysterious or difficult to understand.

**Usage:** How it works is a complete enigma to me.

43). **Jocular**

**Meaning:** humorous, funny, witty, comic

**Definition:** fond of or characterized by joking; humorous or playful.

**Usage:** She sounded in a jocular mood.

44). **Rebuke**

**Meaning:** reprimand, reproach, scold

**Definition:** express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behaviour or actions.

**Usage:** She had rebuked him for drinking too much.

45). **Remiss**

**Meaning:** irresponsible, careless, thoughtless

**Definition:** lacking care or attention to duty; negligent.

**Usage:** It would be very remiss of me not to pass on that information.

46). **Forsake**

**Meaning:** desert, leave, quit

**Definition:** abandon or leave.

**Usage:** He would never forsake Tara.

47). **Clemency**

**Meaning:** mercy, mercifulness, mildness

**Definition:** mercy; lenience.

**Usage:** The high court commuted his prison term to five years as an act of clemency.

48). **Vague**

**Meaning:** indistinct, indefinite, indeterminate, unclear;

**Definition:** of uncertain, indefinite, or unclear character or meaning.

**Usage:** Many patients suffer vague symptoms.

49). **Brittle**

**Meaning:** breakable, splintery

**Definition:** hard but liable to break easily.

**Usage:** Glass is a brittle material.

50). **Grueling**

**Meaning:** exhausting, tiring,

**Definition:** extremely tiring and demanding.

**Usage:** He undertook a grueling three-mile run.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Usage</th>
<th>Example</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51)</td>
<td>Unruly</td>
<td>disorderly, rowdy, wild</td>
<td>disorderly and disruptive and not amenable to discipline or control.</td>
<td>She was scolding some unruly children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>52)</td>
<td>Retract</td>
<td>Pull in, draw in, pull back.</td>
<td>draw or be drawn back or back in</td>
<td>She retracted her hand as if she'd been burnt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>53)</td>
<td>Concise</td>
<td>succinct, short, brief.</td>
<td>giving a lot of information clearly and in a few words; brief but comprehensive.</td>
<td>Concise account of the country's history.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>54)</td>
<td>Valiant</td>
<td>brave, fearless, courageous</td>
<td>possessing or showing courage or determination.</td>
<td>She made a valiant effort to hold her anger in check.</td>
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<td>55)</td>
<td>Lenient</td>
<td>merciful, clement, sparing</td>
<td>(of a punishment or person in authority) more merciful or tolerant than expected.</td>
<td>In the view of the Court the sentence was too lenient.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>56)</td>
<td>Stifle</td>
<td>suffocate, choke, asphyxiate</td>
<td>make (someone) unable to breathe properly; suffocate.</td>
<td>Those in the streets were stifled by the fumes.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>57)</td>
<td>Tarnish</td>
<td>discolour, stain, rust</td>
<td>lose or cause to lose lustre, especially as a result of exposure to air or moisture.</td>
<td>Silver tarnishes too easily.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>58)</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>obligatory, compulsory, binding</td>
<td>required by law or mandate; compulsory.</td>
<td>Wearing helmets was made mandatory for pedal cyclists.</td>
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<td>59)</td>
<td>Chagrín</td>
<td>annoyance, irritation, vexation</td>
<td>annoyance or distress at having failed or been humiliated.</td>
<td>To my chagrin, he was nowhere to be seen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>60)</td>
<td>Erudite</td>
<td>learned, scholarly, well educated,</td>
<td>having or showing great knowledge or learning.</td>
<td>Ken could turn any conversation into an erudite discussion.</td>
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<td>61)</td>
<td>Brevity</td>
<td>conciseness, concision, succinctness</td>
<td>concise and exact use of words in writing or speech.</td>
<td>The staff will edit manuscripts with a view to brevity and clarity.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>62)</td>
<td>Implausible</td>
<td>unlikely, improbable, questionable</td>
<td>(of an argument or statement) not seeming reasonable or probable; failing to convince.</td>
<td>This is a blatantly implausible claim.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>63)</td>
<td>Flawed</td>
<td>unsound, defective, faulty</td>
<td>having or characterized by a fundamental weakness or imperfection.</td>
<td>The Commission's findings were fundamentally flawed.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>64)</td>
<td>Restrain</td>
<td>prevent, stop, keep</td>
<td>prevent (someone or something) from doing something; keep under control or within limits.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Usage: She had to restrain herself from slamming the receiver down.

65). Dainty
Meaning: fastidious, fussy, hard to please
Definition: fastidious, especially concerning food.
Usage: A dainty eater.

66). Bleak
Meaning: bare, exposed, desert
Definition: (of an area of land) lacking vegetation and exposed to the elements.
Usage: A bleak landscape.

67). Turbulent
Meaning: tempestuous, stormy, unstable, unsettled,
Definition: characterized by conflict, disorder, or confusion; not stable or calm.
Usage: The country's turbulent history.

68). Succumb
Meaning: yield, give in, give way, submit
Definition: fail to resist pressure, temptation, or some other negative force.
Usage: We cannot merely give up and succumb to despair.

69). Incise
Meaning: engrave, carve, cut
Definition: mark or decorate (an object or surface) with a cut or cuts.
Usage: A button incised with a skull.

70). Flawed
Meaning: unsound, defective, faulty
Definition: having or characterized by a fundamental weakness or imperfection.
Usage: The Commission's findings were fundamentally flawed.

71). Sober
Meaning: not drunk, not intoxicated, clear-headed,
Definition: not affected by alcohol; not drunk.

72). Factual
Meaning: truthful, true, accurate
Definition: concerned with what is actually the case.
Usage: A mixture of comment and factual information.

73). Trivial
Meaning: unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential
Definition: of little value or importance.
Usage: Huge fines were imposed for trivial offences.

74). Perpetual
Meaning: everlasting, never-ending, eternal
Definition: never ending or changing.
Usage: Deep caves in perpetual darkness.

75). Inept
Meaning: incompetent, unskillful, rough
Definition: having or showing no skill; clumsy.
Usage: The referee's inept handling of the match.

76). Nimble
Meaning: quick, active, graceful
Definition: quick and light in movement or action; agile.
Usage: With a deft motion of her nimble fingers.

77). Sturdy
Meaning: strapping, well built, well made, muscular
Definition: (of a person or their body) strongly and solidly built.
Usage: He had a sturdy, muscular physique.

78). Tranquil
Meaning: peaceful, restful, calm, quiet
Definition: free from disturbance; calm.
Usage: A wonderfully tranquil village.

79). Sprightly
Meaning: lively, spry, energetic, active
**Definition:** (especially of an old person) lively; full of energy.
**Usage:** She was quite **sprightly** for her age.

80). **Amiable**
**Meaning:** friendly, affable, amicable
**Definition:** having or displaying a friendly and pleasant manner.
**Usage:** The **amiable** young man greeted me enthusiastically.

81). **Cantankerous**
**Meaning:** bad-tempered, irascible, irritable
**Definition:** bad-tempered, argumentative, and uncooperative.
**Usage:** He can be a **cantankerous** old fossil at times.

82). **Affluent**
**Meaning:** wealthy, rich, prosperous
**Definition:** (especially of a group or area) having a great deal of money; wealthy.
**Usage:** The **affluent** societies of the western world.

83). **Destitute**
**Meaning:** poor, down and out, impoverished
**Definition:** extremely poor and lacking the means to provide for oneself.
**Usage:** The charity cares for **destitute** children.

84). **Aloof**
**Meaning:** distant, remote, unresponsive
**Definition:** not friendly or forthcoming; cool and distant.
**Usage:** They were courteous but faintly **aloof**.

85). **Congenial**
**Meaning:** like-minded, compatible, kindred
**Definition:** (of a person) pleasing or liked on account of having qualities or interests that are similar to one's own.
**Usage:** His need for some **congenial** company.

86). **Copious**
**Meaning:** abundant, plentiful, extensive
**Definition:** abundant in supply or quantity.
**Usage:** She took **copious** notes.

87). **Libertine**
**Meaning:** playboy, rake, romeo
**Definition:** a person, especially a man, who freely indulges in sensual pleasures without regard to moral principles.
**Usage:** His image as an unbridled **libertine** is a total myth.

88). **Scant**
**Meaning:** little, minimal, limited
**Definition:** barely sufficient or adequate.
**Usage:** Companies with **scant** regard for the safety of future generations.

89). **Pellucid**
**Meaning:** transparent, clear, bright
**Definition:** translucently clear.
**Usage:** Mountains reflected in the **pellucid** waters.

90). **Meagre**
**Meaning:** inadequate, insufficient, short
**Definition:** (of something provided or available) lacking in quantity or quality.
**Usage:** They were forced to supplement their **meagre** earnings.

91). **Fickle**
**Meaning:** capricious, changeable, variable
**Definition:** changing frequently, especially as regards one's loyalties or affections.
**Usage:** Celebs trying to appeal to an increasingly **fickle** public.

92). **Sluggish**
**Meaning:** inactive, quiet, slow
**Definition:** slow-moving or inactive.
**Usage:** The **sluggish** global economy.

93). **Stringent**
94). Obese
Meaning: fat, over cholesterol
Definition: grossly fat or overweight.
Usage: A hugely obese young man.

95). Rational
Meaning: logical, reasoned, sensible
Definition: based on or in accordance with reason or logic.
Usage: I'm sure there's a perfectly rational explanation.

96). Subdue
Meaning: conquer, defeat, vanquish
Definition: overcome, quieten, or bring under control (a feeling or person).
Usage: She managed to subdue an instinct to applaud.

97). Reverence
Meaning: high esteem, acclaim, great respect
Definition: deep respect for someone or something.
Usage: Rituals showed honour and reverence for the dead.

98). Intricate
Meaning: complex, complicated, twisted
Definition: very complicated or detailed.
Usage: An intricate network of canals.

99). Skeptical
Meaning: doubtful, dubious, mistrustful
Definition: not easily convinced; having doubts or reservations.
Usage: The public were deeply skeptical about some of the proposals.

100). Invective
Meaning: abuse, insults, swearing
Definition: insulting, abusive, or highly critical language.
Usage: She poured forth a string of invective.