NDA GAT • ENGLISH VOCABULARY & PAIRED WORDS

Confusing / Paired Words

High-Yield Word Pairs, Parts of Speech, Hindi Equivalents, Memory Tricks & NDA Practice MCQs

In **NDA GAT English** (and defense exams such as CDS/AFCAT), **Confusing / Paired Words** (often homophones or paronyms) test your precision with part of speech, spelling nuances, and contextual fit in **Fill in the Blanks**, **Spotting Errors**, and **Sentence Improvement**.

1. High-Yield Confusing Word Pairs

Word Pair	Part(s) of Speech	Core Meaning & हिन्दी अर्थ	Exam Trap & Example
Appraise **Apprise**	Verb Verb	**Appraise:** To assess/evaluate value **(मूल्यांकन करना)** **Apprise:** To inform/notify **(सूचित करना)**	*Appraise* = price/worth; *Apprise* = *apprise someone **of** something*. • The surveyor **appraised** the damage. • Command was **apprised of** the delay.
Aural **Oral**	Adjective Adjective	**Aural:** Relating to hearing/ear **(श्रवण संबंधी)** **Oral:** Spoken / verbal **(मौखिक)**	Don't confuse *oral* (spoken) with *aural* (ear). • **Aural** acuity matters in radio checks. • SSB includes an **oral** interview.
Biannual **Biennial**	Adjective Adjective	**Biannual:** Twice a year **(वर्ष में दो बार)** **Biennial:** Once every two years **(द्विवार्षिक)**	*Bi-* shifts meaning by time span. • **Biannual** medical checkups happen every six months. • **Biennial** elections occur every two years.
Climactic **Climatic**	Adjective Adjective	**Climactic:** Relating to a climax/peak **(चरम बिंदु संबंधी)** **Climatic:** Relating to weather/climate **(जलवायु संबंधी)**	*Climactic* has a **c** before **t** (like climax). • The **climactic** scene gripped the hall. • **Climatic** shifts affect high-altitude routes.
Continual **Continuous**	Adjective Adjective	**Continual:** Repeated with breaks/pauses **(निरंतर / बार-बार)** **Continuous:** Unbroken without stopping **(लगातार / अविराम)**	*Continual* = recurring with intervals; *Continuous* = non-stop. • **Continual** interruptions broke his focus. • **Continuous** rain flooded the valley.
Defuse **Diffuse**	Verb Verb / Adj.	**Defuse:** To remove tension/danger **(तनाव कम करना / निष्क्रिय करना)** **Diffuse:** To spread widely / not concentrated **(फैलाना / बिखरा हुआ)**	*Defuse* = disarm/calm; *Diffuse* = scatter/wordy. • The negotiator **defused** the crisis. • Light **diffused** through the mist.

Word Pair	Part(s) of Speech	Core Meaning & हिन्दी अर्थ	Exam Trap & Example
Disinterested **Uninterested**	Adjective Adjective	**Disinterested:** Impartial / unbiased **(निष्पक्ष)** **Uninterested:** Indifferent / bored **(उदासीन / बेरुखा)**	*Disinterested* does **not** mean "not interested"! It means neutral. • A **disinterested** judge ensures fairness. • He seemed **uninterested** in the lecture.
Emigrate **Immigrate**	Verb Verb	**Emigrate:** To leave one's country (**E**xit) **(देश छोड़ना)** **Immigrate:** To enter a new country (**I**n) **(दूसरे देश में बसना)**	**E** = Exit; **I** = Into. • Many **emigrated** from the region. • Skilled workers **immigrated** to Canada.
Flaunt **Flout**	Verb Verb	**Flaunt:** To show off ostentatiously **(दिखावा करना)** **Flout:** To openly disregard a rule/law **(अवहेलना करना / नियम तोड़ना)**	*Flaunt* = show off wealth/style; *Flout* = break rules. • He **flaunted** his new gadget. • Drivers who **flout** signals risk fines.
Ingenious **Ingenuous**	Adjective Adjective	**Ingenious:** Clever, inventive, resourceful **(प्रतिभाशाली / युक्तिपूर्ण)** **Ingenuous:** Innocent, frank, naive **(भोला / सरल / निश्छल)**	*Ingenious* = smart idea; *Ingenuous* = guileless nature. • An **ingenious** plan solved the bottleneck. • Her **ingenuous** reply won everyone over.
Luxuriant **Luxurious**	Adjective Adjective	**Luxuriant:** Lush, abundant growth **(प्रचुर / घना / समृद्ध)** **Luxurious:** Rich, comfortable, extravagant **(विलासितापूर्ण)**	*Luxuriant* describes plants/hair/foliage; *Luxurious* describes lifestyle/hotels. • **Luxuriant** vegetation lined the hillside. • They stayed in a **luxurious** suite.
Persecute **Prosecute**	Verb Verb	**Persecute:** To harass/oppress cruelly **(उत्पीड़न करना / सताना)** **Prosecute:** To legally charge/try in court **(मुकदमा चलाना)**	*Persecute* = unjust treatment; *Prosecute* = legal action. • Minorities were **persecuted** historically. • Offenders will be **prosecuted** under law.
Practical **Practicable**	Adjective Adjective	**Practical:** Sensible, realistic, hands-on **(व्यावहारिक)** **Practicable:** Feasible / workable in practice **(व्यवहार्य / करने योग्य)**	Something can be *practical* (useful) yet not *practicable* (doable right now). • Give **practical** examples in grammar. • The route isn't **practicable** in peak winter.
Prescribe **Proscribe**	Verb Verb	**Prescribe:** To recommend/authoritatively order **(निर्धारित करना / दवा लिखना)** **Proscribe:** To ban/forbid by law **(प्रतिबंधित करना / निषिद्ध करना)**	*Prescribe* = lay down/order; *Proscribe* = prohibit. • The doctor **prescribed** rest. • Extremist groups were **proscribed**.

Word Pair	Part(s) of Speech	Core Meaning & हिन्दी अर्थ	Exam Trap & Example
Sensual **Sensuous**	Adjective Adjective	**Sensual:** Related to bodily/physical gratification **(इंद्रियजन्य / कामुक)** **Sensuous:** Appealing to the senses —sight, sound, touch **(इंद्रियों को भाने वाला)**	*Sensuous* is broader and aesthetic (music, art, scenery). • **Sensuous** music filled the hall. • The text critiqued purely **sensual** pleasure.

2. Fast Grammar & Memory Tricks for NDA

Quick Recall Anchors for Exam Day

• **Preposition Clues:** *Apprise* pairs with **of** (*apprise someone of facts*). *Flout* takes a direct object (*flout **rules***)—never *flout with rules*.
• **Prefix / Letter Anchors:** **E**migrate = **E**xit; **I**mmigrate = **I**n. **Pro**scribe = **Pro**hibit (ban); **Pre**scribe = order/recommend beforehand.
• **Meaning Drift Traps:** *Disinterested ≠ uninterested* (choose **disinterested** for a neutral judge/referee). *Practicable* tests *feasibility* (can it be executed?), whereas *practical* tests *utility/realism*.

3. NDA Pattern Practice MCQs

1. The tribunal must remain _____ while hearing arguments from both sides.
(A) uninterested (B) disinterested (C) ingenious (D) luxuriant

2. Those who deliberately _____ traffic regulations face strict penalties.
(A) flaunt (B) flout (C) appraise (D) diffuse

3. His _____ remark showed complete innocence rather than calculated deceit.
(A) ingenious (B) practicable (C) ingenuous (D) continuous

4. The authorities decided to _____ unauthorized gatherings in the sensitive zone.
(A) prescribe (B) proscribe (C) apprise (D) diffuse

5. The old bridge was declared unsafe, making heavy transport _____ until repairs.
(A) practicable (B) impracticable (C) continual (D) aural

6. The diplomat managed to _____ the border tension before it escalated.
(A) diffuse (B) defuse (C) persecute (D) immigrate

4. Answer Key & Explanations

Q. No.	Answer	Explanation
1	**(B) disinterested**	*Disinterested* means impartial/unbiased, which fits a tribunal; *uninterested* means lacking interest.
2	**(B) flout**	*Flout* means to openly defy or break a rule/law; *flaunt* means to show off.
3	**(C) ingenuous**	*Ingenuous* means frank, innocent, and without guile; *ingenious* means clever/inventive.
4	**(B) proscribe**	*Proscribe* means to ban or forbid officially; *prescribe* means to order/recommend.
5	**(B) impracticable**	*Impracticable* means not feasible/workable under given conditions; *continual* relates to repeated occurrence.
6	**(B) defuse**	*Defuse* means to reduce danger or tension; *diffuse* means to spread out or scatter.