NDA GAT • ENGLISH VOCABULARY & PAIRED WORDS

# Homonyms & Homophones (with Hindi)

High-Frequency Confusing Pairs, True Homonyms, Bilingual Meanings & NDA Practice MCQs

In the **NDA GAT English** paper, UPSC tests **Homonyms** and **Homophones** under **Usage of Paired Words**, **Fill in the Blanks**, and **Spotting Errors**.

> **Homonyms vs. Homophones — Exam Distinction**
>
> • **Homonyms:** Words with the **same spelling and pronunciation** but different meanings (e.g., *Bear* = भालू / सहन करना).
>
> • **Homophones (Confusing Pairs):** Words with the **same or similar pronunciation** but different spellings and meanings (e.g., *Accept* vs. *Except*).

## Part 1: High-Frequency NDA Homophones (Confusing Pairs)

| Word Pair | Meaning (English) | हिन्दी अर्थ (Hindi) | NDA Exam Example |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Accept**<br>**Except** | To receive / agree<br>Excluding / apart from | **स्वीकार करना**<br>**के अलावा / को छोड़कर** | He **accepted** the award.<br>Everyone passed **except** Ravi. |
| **Affect *(v.)***<br>**Effect *(n.)*** | To influence<br>Result / outcome | **प्रभावित करना**<br>**प्रभाव / परिणाम** | Stress can **affect** your health.<br>The medicine had no side **effect**. |
| **Advice *(n.)***<br>**Advise *(v.)*** | Suggestion / guidance<br>To give a suggestion | **सलाह**<br>**सलाह देना** | Follow your teacher's **advice**.<br>I **advise** you to revise daily. |
| **Adapt**<br>**Adopt**<br>**Adept** | To adjust to conditions<br>To take as one's own<br>Skilled / expert | **अनुकूल बनाना**<br>**अपनाना / गोद लेना**<br>**निपुण / कुशल** | Soldiers **adapt** to extreme weather.<br>They **adopted** a new strategy.<br>She is **adept** at shooting. |
| **Allusion**<br>**Illusion** | Indirect reference<br>False perception / mirage | **अप्रत्यक्ष संकेत / उल्लेख**<br>**भ्रम / माया** | His speech had an **allusion** to history.<br>The oasis was just an **illusion**. |
| **Complement**<br>**Compliment** | Something that completes<br>Praise / admiration | **पूरक**<br>**प्रशंसा / तारीफ** | Rice and dal **complement** each other.<br>He paid her a sincere **compliment**. |
| **Council**<br>**Counsel** | An official committee<br>Advice / legal advisor | **परिषद / सभा**<br>**परामर्श / वकील** | The **council** passed the resolution.<br>Seek **counsel** before deciding. |
| **Desert *(n./v.)***<br>**Dessert *(n.)*** | Dry sandy land / to abandon<br>Sweet dish after a meal | **रेगिस्तान / त्याग देना**<br>**मिठाई (भोजन के बाद)** | Never **desert** your post.<br>We had gulab jamun for **dessert**. |

| Word Pair | Meaning (English) | हिन्दी अर्थ (Hindi) | NDA Exam Example |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Elicit**<br>**Illicit** | To draw out (a response)<br>Illegal / unlawful | **बाहर निकालना / प्राप्त करना**<br>**अवैध / गैर-कानूनी** | The question **elicited** no reply.<br>Police seized **illicit** liquor. |
| **Eminent**<br>**Imminent** | Famous and respected<br>About to happen soon | **प्रसिद्ध / प्रतिष्ठित**<br>**आसन्न / निकट (होने वाला)** | An **eminent** scientist visited NDA.<br>A heavy storm is **imminent**. |
| **Ensure**<br>**Insure**<br>**Assure** | To make certain<br>To protect financially<br>To promise someone | **सुनिश्चित करना**<br>**बीमा करना**<br>**आश्वासन देना** | **Ensure** all doors are locked.<br>You must **insure** your vehicle.<br>I **assure** you of my support. |
| **Loose *(adj.)***<br>**Lose *(v.)*** | Not tight<br>To be deprived of / fail to win | **ढीला**<br>**खोना / हारना** | Wear **loose** clothes in summer.<br>Don't **lose** your admit card. |
| **Principal**<br>**Principle** | Head of a school / main<br>Moral rule / fundamental truth | **प्रधानाचार्य / मुख्य**<br>**सिद्धांत / नियम** | The **Principal** addressed the cadets.<br>He is a man of high **principles**. |
| **Stationary**<br>**Stationery** | Not moving / fixed<br>Writing materials (pen, paper) | **स्थिर / रुका हुआ**<br>**लेखन सामग्री** | The truck hit a **stationary** car.<br>Buy notebooks from the **stationery** shop. |
| **Sight**<br>**Site**<br>**Cite** | Vision / view<br>Location / place<br>To quote as evidence | **दृष्टि / दृश्य**<br>**स्थल / स्थान**<br>**उदाहरण या प्रमाण देना** | His **sight** is 6/6.<br>This is the **site** of the new camp.<br>He **cited** a Supreme Court ruling. |
| **Canvas**<br>**Canvass** | Coarse heavy cloth<br>To solicit votes / support | **मोटा कपड़ा (कैनवास)**<br>**वोट या समर्थन मांगना** | The tent is made of thick **canvas**.<br>Volunteers **canvassed** door to door. |
| **Censor**<br>**Censure** | To ban / edit objectionable content<br>To criticize strongly | **प्रतिबंध लगाना / काटना**<br>**कड़ी निंदा करना** | The board **censored** two scenes.<br>The committee **censured** the officer. |
| **Discreet**<br>**Discrete** | Careful / tactful<br>Separate / distinct | **विवेकशील / सतर्क**<br>**अलग / पृथक** | Be **discreet** about confidential info.<br>The data is split into **discrete** parts. |
| **Fair**<br>**Fare** | Just / light-skinned / festival<br>Travel ticket price | **निष्पक्ष / मेला / गोरा**<br>**किराया** | The umpire made a **fair** decision.<br>The train **fare** has increased. |
| **Peace**<br>**Piece** | Calmness / absence of war<br>A part or portion | **शांति**<br>**टुकड़ा / हिस्सा** | India stands for global **peace**.<br>Give me a **piece** of paper. |

## Part 2: True Homonyms (Same Spelling, Different Meanings)

| Word | Meaning 1 (हिन्दी अर्थ) | Meaning 2 (हिन्दी अर्थ) |
|---|---|---|
| **Bear** | A wild animal **(भालू)** | To tolerate / endure **(सहन करना)** |
| **Bark** | Sound of a dog **(भौंकना)** | Outer covering of a tree **(पेड़ की छाल)** |
| **Mean** | Unkind / selfish **(मतलबी / नीच)** | Average / to signify **(औसत / अर्थ होना)** |
| **Present** | A gift **(उपहार)** | Current time / attending **(वर्तमान / उपस्थित)** |
| **Right** | Correct **(सही)** | Legal/moral entitlement **(अधिकार)** |
| **Suit** | Formal outfit **(सूट / पोशाक)** | Legal case / to be appropriate **(मुकदमा / अनुकूल होना)** |
| **Watch** | Wrist timepiece **(घड़ी)** | To observe carefully **(देखना / निगरानी रखना)** |
| **Lead** | A heavy metal **(सीसा)** | To guide or command **(नेतृत्व करना)** |

## Part 3: NDA Pattern Practice MCQs (Usage of Paired Words)

**1. Choose the correct pair of meanings for: Eminent and Imminent**

(A) Famous; about to happen (B) About to happen; famous (C) Illegal; respected (D) Respected; permanent

**2. Fill in the blanks: The officer's strict _____ did not _____ the morale of the platoon.**

(A) censure, affect (B) censor, effect (C) censure, effect (D) censor, affect

**3. Fill in the blanks: You must _____ that you do not _____ your focus during the SSB interview.**

(A) insure, loose (B) ensure, lose (C) assure, loose (D) ensure, loose

**4. Choose the correct option: The committee took a _____ approach while dividing the syllabus into _____ modules.**

(A) discrete, discreet (B) discreet, discrete (C) discreet, discreet (D) discrete, discrete

**5. Fill in the blanks: He _____ a famous poem in his speech, which was an indirect _____ to the freedom struggle.**

(A) sited, illusion (B) cited, allusion (C) sighted, allusion (D) cited, illusion

## Part 4: Answer Key & Explanations

| Q. No. | Answer | Explanation (with हिन्दी अर्थ) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **(A) Famous; about to happen** | *Eminent* = प्रसिद्ध, *Imminent* = आसन्न (होने वाला). |
| 2 | **(A) censure, affect** | *Censure* (निंदा) is a noun here; *affect* (प्रभावित करना) is the verb needed after *did not*. |
| 3 | **(B) ensure, lose** | *Ensure* = सुनिश्चित करना; *lose* = खोना (*loose* means ढीला). |
| 4 | **(B) discreet, discrete** | *Discreet* = सतर्क/विवेकशील; *discrete* = अलग-अलग/पृथक. |
| 5 | **(B) cited, allusion** | *Cited* = उद्धृत करना (quoted); *allusion* = अप्रत्यक्ष संकेत (indirect reference). |