

P2 English Paper — Difficult Vocabulary, Synonyms, Antonyms & Idioms

Corrected edition: the main focus is English meaning, synonyms, antonyms, examples and idioms/phrases. Hindi is included only as support.

1. Difficult Words — Full Exam-Oriented Vocabulary

1. enthralled	Meaning: completely fascinated or captivated Hindi: मोहित; मंत्रित
Synonyms	captivated, fascinated, spellbound
Antonyms	bored, uninterested
Example	The audience was enthralled by the performance.
Memory/Exam Tip	THRALL = control → completely under someone's spell.
2. dulcet	Meaning: pleasant and soothing to hear Hindi: मधुर; सुखदा
Synonyms	melodious, sweet, harmonious
Antonyms	harsh, discordant
Example	Her dulcet voice calmed everyone.
Memory/Exam Tip	Think: DULCET ≈ delightful sound.
3. inaudible	Meaning: too faint to be heard Hindi: सुन नही आने वाला
Synonyms	unheard, indistinct
Antonyms	audible, clear
Example	His reply was inaudible in the noisy hall.
Memory/Exam Tip	in + audible = not audible.
4. indistinct	Meaning: not clear or sharply defined Hindi: अस्पष्ट; धुंधला
Synonyms	unclear, vague, blurred
Antonyms	distinct, clear, definite
Example	The figure was indistinct in the fog.
Memory/Exam Tip	IN + DISTINCT = not distinct.
5. ignominy	Meaning: public shame or disgrace Hindi: शर्म; धिक्कार
Synonyms	disgrace, humiliation, dishonour
Antonyms	honour, glory, dignity
Example	He left the office in ignominy.
Memory/Exam Tip	IGNOMINY = shame/disgrace.
6. exposed	Meaning: made visible; revealed; left unprotected Hindi: उजागर; खुला
Synonyms	revealed, uncovered, disclosed
Antonyms	concealed, protected, hidden
Example	The investigation exposed the fraud.
Memory/Exam Tip	EXPOSE = put outside/in view.

7. clairvoyant	Meaning: able to perceive things beyond normal senses; prophetic Hindi: भविष्यवाणी; भविष्यवाणी करने वाला
Synonyms	prophetic, psychic, farsighted
Antonyms	short-sighted, unaware
Example	The clairvoyant claimed to foresee events.
Memory/Exam Tip	CLAIR = clear + VOYANT = seeing.
8. malevolent	Meaning: having or showing a wish to do harm Hindi: दुर्भावपूर्ण; दुर्भावपूर्ण व्यक्ति
Synonyms	malicious, spiteful, hostile
Antonyms	benevolent, kind, charitable
Example	A malevolent person may deliberately hurt others.
Memory/Exam Tip	MAL = bad; VOLENT = wishing.
9. hideous	Meaning: extremely ugly or unpleasant Hindi: भयानक; भयानक रूप
Synonyms	ugly, repulsive, grotesque
Antonyms	beautiful, attractive, pleasant
Example	The monster had a hideous face.
Memory/Exam Tip	Hideous = horribly ugly.
10. buoyant	Meaning: cheerful and optimistic; able to float Hindi: उत्साही; उत्साही व्यक्ति
Synonyms	cheerful, optimistic, lively
Antonyms	depressed, gloomy
Example	She remained buoyant despite the setback.
Memory/Exam Tip	A buoy floats → buoyant spirits rise.
11. compunction	Meaning: a feeling of guilt or regret about doing something wrong Hindi: पश्चात्ताप; पश्चात्ताप-पूर्ण
Synonyms	remorse, guilt, regret
Antonyms	insensitivity, ruthlessness
Example	He felt no compunction about lying.
Memory/Exam Tip	COM-PUNCTION → conscience pricks you.
12. aplomb	Meaning: complete self-confidence and composure Hindi: आत्मविश्वास; आत्मविश्वास
Synonyms	poise, confidence, composure
Antonyms	nervousness, agitation, awkwardness
Example	She handled the difficult interview with aplomb.
Memory/Exam Tip	Aplomb = calm confidence under pressure.
13. substantial	Meaning: large in amount/importance; real and considerable Hindi: महत्वपूर्ण; महत्वपूर्ण; ठोस
Synonyms	considerable, significant, sizeable
Antonyms	insignificant, negligible, slight
Example	The project requires substantial investment.
Memory/Exam Tip	SUBSTANCE = something solid/important.

14. self-assurance	Meaning: confidence in one's own abilities Hindi: आत्मविश्वास
Synonyms	confidence, poise, assurance
Antonyms	self-doubt, insecurity
Example	His self-assurance impressed the panel.
Memory/Exam Tip	SELF + ASSURANCE = confidence in oneself.
15. camaraderie	Meaning: mutual trust, friendship and team spirit Hindi: मित्रता; सहोदरता/सहोदर मित्रता
Synonyms	companionship, fellowship, solidarity
Antonyms	hostility, animosity, alienation
Example	There was strong camaraderie among the cadets.
Memory/Exam Tip	CAMARADERIE = comrades' friendship.
16. ferocious	Meaning: savagely fierce, violent or aggressive Hindi: क्रूर; खतरनाक
Synonyms	fierce, savage, ruthless, violent
Antonyms	gentle, tame, mild
Example	The tiger made a ferocious attack.
Memory/Exam Tip	FEROCIOUS = extremely fierce.
17. subterfuge	Meaning: a trick or deceptive method used to achieve a goal Hindi: छद्म-कार्य; धोखा
Synonyms	deception, ruse, stratagem, trickery
Antonyms	honesty, openness, frankness
Example	They used subterfuge to obtain confidential information.
Memory/Exam Tip	SUBTERFUGE = secret trick.
18. vituperate	Meaning: to abuse or criticize someone harshly Hindi: खूब बुराई/लोकाई करना
Synonyms	berate, abuse, revile, denounce
Antonyms	praise, commend, applaud
Example	The coach began to vituperate the careless player.
Memory/Exam Tip	VITUPERATE = verbal attack.
19. penitent	Meaning: feeling sorry for wrongdoing Hindi: पश्चात्ताप
Synonyms	remorseful, repentant, contrite
Antonyms	unrepentant, impenitent
Example	The penitent offender apologized.
Memory/Exam Tip	PENITENT = one who repents.
20. pertinent	Meaning: directly relevant to the matter Hindi: प्रासंगिक; सम्बन्धी
Synonyms	relevant, applicable, appropriate
Antonyms	irrelevant, unrelated, immaterial
Example	Please provide only pertinent information.
Memory/Exam Tip	PERTINENT = relevant to the point.

21. indelible	Meaning: impossible to remove, erase or forget Hindi: अमिट; अमिट छाप/चित्र या चिह्न
Synonyms	permanent, unforgettable, ineradicable
Antonyms	erasable, temporary, forgettable
Example	The trip left an indelible impression on me.
Memory/Exam Tip	IN + DELIBLE = cannot be erased.
22. futile	Meaning: incapable of producing a useful result; pointless Hindi: बेकार; व्यर्थ
Synonyms	pointless, useless, vain, fruitless
Antonyms	useful, effective, productive
Example	It is futile to argue without evidence.
Memory/Exam Tip	FUTILE = no useful result.
23. solitary	Meaning: alone; existing or occurring singly Hindi: अकेला; एकल
Synonyms	alone, isolated, lonely, single
Antonyms	social, accompanied, crowded
Example	He lived a solitary life.
Memory/Exam Tip	SOLITARY = single/alone.
24. turbulent	Meaning: characterized by disorder, conflict or violent movement Hindi: अशांत; अशांति-पूर्ण
Synonyms	chaotic, stormy, violent, unsettled
Antonyms	calm, peaceful, tranquil
Example	The country experienced a turbulent period.
Memory/Exam Tip	TURBULENT = disturbed, not calm.
25. sail close to the wind	Meaning: to do something risky or near the limits of what is acceptable/legal Hindi: खतरा भरा रास्ता या काम करना
Synonyms	take risks, push the limits
Antonyms	play safe, act cautiously
Example	His business practices sail close to the wind.
Memory/Exam Tip	Imagine a boat sailing dangerously close to the wind.
26. watch one's step	Meaning: to be careful about what one does or says Hindi: सावधान रहना
Synonyms	be careful, tread carefully
Antonyms	be careless, act recklessly
Example	Watch your step when dealing with powerful people.
Memory/Exam Tip	STEP = action; watch it = be careful.
27. cool one's heels	Meaning: to wait, usually unwillingly, for someone or something Hindi: इंतजार करना
Synonyms	wait, linger, mark time
Antonyms	hurry, proceed
Example	We had to cool our heels outside the office.
Memory/Exam Tip	Imagine cooling your heels while waiting.

28. memory like a sieve	Meaning: to have a very poor memory Hindi: स्मृति की तरह छलनी की तरह
Synonyms	forgetful, absent-minded
Antonyms	good memory, retentive
Example	He has a memory like a sieve and forgets names quickly.
Memory/Exam Tip	A sieve lets things pass through → memories slip away.
29. take the veil	Meaning: to become a nun/religious sister Hindi: साधु/साध्विनी बनना
Synonyms	enter religious life, become a nun
Antonyms	leave religious life
Example	She decided to take the veil after years of reflection.
Memory/Exam Tip	The veil is associated with entering religious life.
30. dilemma	Meaning: a difficult situation requiring a choice between alternatives Hindi: संकट
Synonyms	predicament, quandary, difficulty
Antonyms	certainty, solution
Example	He faced a dilemma between duty and convenience.
Memory/Exam Tip	DILEMMA = difficult choice.
31. chronological	Meaning: arranged according to time/order of occurrence Hindi: क्रमिक
Synonyms	sequential, ordered, consecutive
Antonyms	random, unordered
Example	The events are presented in chronological order.
Memory/Exam Tip	CHRONO = time.
32. biodegradation	Meaning: natural breakdown of material by microorganisms Hindi: जैव-विघटन
Synonyms	biological decomposition, decomposition
Antonyms	persistence, non-decomposition
Example	Biodegradation reduces some forms of waste.
Memory/Exam Tip	BIO = life; DEGRADATION = breakdown.
33. humanistic	Meaning: concerned with human values, welfare and experience Hindi: मानवीय
Synonyms	humane, compassionate, humanitarian
Antonyms	inhumane, cruel
Example	The passage has a humanistic tone.
Memory/Exam Tip	HUMAN = people; humanistic = human-centred.
34. biodiversity	Meaning: variety of living organisms in an area or on Earth Hindi: जैव विविधता
Synonyms	biological diversity, variety of life
Antonyms	uniformity, monoculture
Example	The mountains are rich in biodiversity.
Memory/Exam Tip	BIO = life + DIVERSITY = variety.

35. hotspot	Meaning: a place of unusually high activity, importance or concentration Hindi: गतिविधि/महत्व की अत्यधिक सांद्रता वाला स्थान
Synonyms	centre, focal area, key region
Antonyms	low-activity area
Example	The region is a biodiversity hotspot.
Memory/Exam Tip	HOTSPOT = a place of special concentration.
36. multitude	Meaning: a very large number of people or things Hindi: बहुत बड़ा संख्या में लोगों/वस्तुओं का समूह
Synonyms	crowd, throng, host, mass
Antonyms	few, handful, minority
Example	A multitude of tourists visited the valley.
Memory/Exam Tip	MULTI = many.
37. ecosystem	Meaning: a community of organisms interacting with their environment Hindi: जीवों और उनके पर्यावरण के बीच अλληक्रिया का प्रणाली
Synonyms	ecological system, habitat system
Antonyms	—
Example	A forest is a complex ecosystem.
Memory/Exam Tip	ECO = environment; SYSTEM = interacting unit.
38. adapt	Meaning: to adjust to new conditions Hindi: नए परिस्थितियों के अनुसार ढलना/अनुकूलित होना
Synonyms	adjust, accommodate, acclimatize
Antonyms	resist, remain unchanged
Example	People must adapt to climate change.
Memory/Exam Tip	ADAPT = adjust.
39. breathtaking	Meaning: extremely beautiful, exciting or impressive Hindi: अत्यंत सुंदर, रोमांचक या आश्चर्यजनक
Synonyms	stunning, spectacular, awe-inspiring
Antonyms	ordinary, unimpressive
Example	The mountain scenery was breathtaking.
Memory/Exam Tip	So beautiful it seems to stop your breath.
40. scenery	Meaning: natural features of a landscape, especially attractive ones Hindi: प्राकृतिक दृश्य, विशेष रूप से आकर्षक
Synonyms	landscape, view, vista
Antonyms	eyesore, unattractive surroundings
Example	The scenery along the route was spectacular.
Memory/Exam Tip	SCENERY = what you see in a landscape.
41. degradation	Meaning: the process of becoming worse or less valuable Hindi: खराब होना; मूल्य कम होना
Synonyms	deterioration, decline, deterioration
Antonyms	improvement, enhancement
Example	Soil degradation threatens agriculture.
Memory/Exam Tip	DEGRADE = make worse.

42. deforestation	Meaning: clearing/removal of forests Hindi: वन का हटाना
Synonyms	forest clearance, logging
Antonyms	afforestation, reforestation
Example	Deforestation can cause soil erosion.
Memory/Exam Tip	DEFOREST = remove forest.
43. scarcity	Meaning: shortage; insufficient supply Hindi: कमी; दुर्लभता
Synonyms	shortage, lack, dearth
Antonyms	abundance, surplus
Example	Water scarcity is a serious problem.
Memory/Exam Tip	SCARCE = hard to find/not enough.
44. erosion	Meaning: gradual wearing away of soil, rock or another material Hindi: क्षय; घिसना
Synonyms	wearing away, abrasion, attrition
Antonyms	deposition, accumulation
Example	Heavy rain can cause soil erosion.
Memory/Exam Tip	EROSE = wear away.
45. resilience	Meaning: ability to recover quickly from difficulty Hindi: लचीलपन; कठोरता से ठीक होना
Synonyms	toughness, adaptability, endurance
Antonyms	fragility, vulnerability
Example	Communities showed resilience after the disaster.
Memory/Exam Tip	RESILIENT = able to bounce back.
46. recycling	Meaning: processing used materials so they can be used again Hindi: पुनर्चक्रण
Synonyms	reuse, reprocessing, reclamation
Antonyms	waste, disposal
Example	Recycling reduces waste.
Memory/Exam Tip	Exam tip: learn the core meaning and use the example to remember it.
47. renewed	Meaning: restored or made active again Hindi: फिर से शुरू/जिवंत
Synonyms	restored, revived, refreshed
Antonyms	abandoned, exhausted
Example	The renewed effort produced better results.
Memory/Exam Tip	Exam tip: learn the core meaning and use the example to remember it.
48. severely	Meaning: to a great degree; very seriously Hindi: बहुत बुरा; बहुत खराब
Synonyms	seriously, harshly, drastically
Antonyms	mildly, slightly
Example	The crops were severely affected by drought.
Memory/Exam Tip	Exam tip: learn the core meaning and use the example to remember it.

49. reverse	Meaning: to change something back to an earlier condition or direction Hindi: उलटाना; उलटाना उलटाना
Synonyms	undo, overturn, revert
Antonyms	continue, advance, maintain
Example	The policy aims to reverse environmental damage.
Memory/Exam Tip	Exam tip: learn the core meaning and use the example to remember it.

50. breathtaking scenery	Meaning: extremely beautiful natural views Hindi: अद्भुत दृश्य; अद्भुत दृश्य दृश्य
Synonyms	spectacular landscape, stunning view
Antonyms	dull scenery
Example	The Himalayas are famous for breathtaking scenery.
Memory/Exam Tip	Exam tip: learn the core meaning and use the example to remember it.

2. Idioms & Phrases — Detailed Explanation

1. Sail close to the wind

Meaning: To take a risk by behaving very near the limits of what is legal or acceptable.

Hindi: खतरा में खेलना, सीमा तक पहुँचना

Example: His business practices sail close to the wind.

Exam note: Synonyms: take risks, push the limits. Antonym: play safe.

2. Watch one's step

Meaning: To be careful about one's actions or words.

Hindi: सावधान रहना, ध्यान रखना

Example: Watch your step when speaking to the authorities.

Exam note: Synonyms: be careful, tread carefully. Antonym: act carelessly.

3. Cool one's heels

Meaning: To wait, usually unwillingly or for longer than expected.

Hindi: ठंडा पड़ना, इंतज़ार करना

Example: We were left cooling our heels outside the office.

Exam note: Synonyms: wait, linger. Antonym: hurry.

4. Memory like a sieve

Meaning: To have a very poor memory and forget things easily.

Hindi: भूलना, याद न रहना

Example: He has a memory like a sieve and forgets names quickly.

Exam note: Synonyms: forgetful, absent-minded. Antonym: retentive.

5. Take the veil

Meaning: To become a nun or enter a religious life.

Hindi: साधु/साधिका बनना, धार्मिक जीवन शुरू करना

Example: She decided to take the veil after years of reflection.

Exam note: Related idea: enter religious life.

6. Close to the mark

Meaning: Very accurate or nearly correct.

Hindi: सटीक, नज़दीक

Example: Your estimate is close to the mark.

Exam note: Synonyms: accurate, near the truth. Antonym: wide of the mark.

3. High-Value Synonym/Antonym Pairs

Word	Antonym	Core contrast
Malevolent	benevolent	malicious ↔ kind
Hideous	beautiful	ugly ↔ attractive
Buoyant	depressed	cheerful ↔ gloomy
Substantial	insignificant	considerable ↔ negligible
Ferocious	gentle	fierce ↔ mild
Penitent	unrepentant	repentant ↔ impenitent
Pertinent	irrelevant	relevant ↔ unrelated
Indelible	erasable	permanent ↔ removable
Futile	effective	pointless ↔ productive
Turbulent	tranquil	unsettled ↔ peaceful
Scarcity	abundance	shortage ↔ plenty
Degradation	improvement	deterioration ↔ enhancement

Biodiversity	uniformity	variety of life ↔ sameness
Adapt	resist	adjust ↔ oppose

4. Confusing Words for Competitive Exams

Affect	usually a verb = influence	The weather affects crops.
Effect	usually a noun = result	The policy had a positive effect.
Adapt	adjust to conditions	Humans adapt to climate.
Adopt	take up/accept as one's own	The company adopted a new policy.
Accept	receive/agree to	She accepted the offer.
Except	excluding	Everyone came except Ravi.
Allusion	indirect reference	The speech contained an allusion to history.
Illusion	false appearance/belief	The magician created an illusion.