

# GENERAL ENGLISH

## Vocabulary

An antonym is a word which has the opposite meaning of the given word. Let us see some tips to crack this part.

1. Note that the given word and the answer must belong to the same parts of speech.

*Pragmatic:* a) Angry b) quixotic c) colourful d) pungent

The word *Pragmatic* is an adjective. Out of the given options the word which is opposite in meaning and belonging to the same parts of speech is quixotic. The correct answer is **b**.

2. The given word and the answer must belong to the same tense form.

*Perceived:* a) Ignored b) created c) apprehend d) conceive

Here the alternatives apprehend and conceive are in the present tense and thus they can be rejected. Ignored gives an opposite meaning and it is also in the past tense as the word Perceived is. Thus, the correct answer is a.

3. Make sure that the given word and the answer are in the same voice.

*Contraction:* a) Reduction b) something which is being expanded  
c) increase d) expansive

The word *Contraction* is a noun in active voice. The alternative reduction is similar. The option b is in passive voice. Thus all the three alternatives are incorrect. The word increase is a noun and is in active voice. The correct answer is **c**.

4. A favourite trick as we have seen with the synonyms is in the alternatives given a synonym may be given to confuse the candidates.

*Venerate:* a) Respect b) condemn c) inculcate d) initiate

The alternative 'a' respect is a synonym. One needs to be alert in such cases. The correct option here is **b**.

### Format 1

Select from the four alternatives, the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word given in capital letters:

1. **ABSTAIN**

a) Refuse b) oppose c) permit d) run away

## 2. CANDID

- a) Useless                      b) misleading                      c) worthless                      d) legal

## 3. IMPLICIT

- a) Satire                      b) baseless                      c) unexplained                      d) definite

**Answers:** 1) c                      2) b                      3) d

### Explanation

1. 'Abstain' means to withhold oneself from an action or self-indulgence, whereas 'permit' refers to the act of not preventing, which is opposite in meaning.
2. 'Candid' refers to revealing or expressing one's true thoughts or feelings, whereas 'misleading' means something that is apt to give a false or mistaken impression.
3. 'Implicit' refers to something that is not revealed in words but can be inferred from the evidence, whereas 'definite' refers to expressions unclouded by any ambiguity.

### Format II

In each of the following questions there are four pairs of words marked a-d. Each pair except one, consist of two words that are opposite in meaning to each other. Select the odd pair.

1. a) frantic/imperturbable                      b) fragile/flexible  
c) brittle/frail                      d) mediocre/distinctive
2. a) turbulent/tranquil                      b) deplete/revitalise  
c) terse/lengthy                      d) stigma/taint
3. a) persist/collapse                      b) persistent/occasional  
c) perimeter/centre                      d) forswear/disclaim

**Answers:** 1) c                      2) d                      3) d

### Practice Test

Choose the word which is nearly opposite in meaning to the given word.

#### 1. Obey

- a) Attract                      b) disobey                      c) repel                      d) diffuse

#### 2. Alleviation

- a) Lessening                      b) magnification                      c) intensify                      d) aggravation

3. Transparent

- a) Translucent      b) vague      c) blind      d) opaque

4. Virtuous

- a) Vicious      b) vulgar      c) miserly      d) insincere

5. Cynical

- a) Mature      b) eccentric      c) naïve      d) crazy

6. Malevolent

- a) Kindly      b) vacuous      c) ambivalent      d) primitive

7. Erudite

- a) Ignorant      b) unknown      c) illiterate      d) unfamiliar

8. Morose

- a) Healthy      b) gloomy      c) haggard      d) cheerful

9. Antipathy

- a) Indifference      b) willingness      c) fondness      d) liking

10. Churlish

- a) Young      b) cultured      c) cowardly      d) accommodating

11. Desultory

- a) Methodical      b) random      c) aimless      d) indiscriminate

12. Parochial

- a) Broad-minded      b) contradictory      c) paranoid      d) overriding

13. Fickle

- a) Belligerent      b) constant      c) disinterested      d) proud

14. Disgruntled

- a) Contended      b) detached      c) obedient      d) vigorous

15. Vibrant

- a) Feel aggrieved at      b) occasional      c) pale      d) shabby

16. Forbidding

- a) Declaring                      b) forcing                      c) exposing                      d) inviting

17. Reprimand

- a) Bequeath                      b) petition                      c) praise                      d) scold

18. Lush

- a) Cramped                      b) ridiculous                      c) rampant                      d) sparse

19. Tentative

- a) Definite                      b) outdated                      c) preliminary                      d) universal

20. Passionate

- a) Abnormal                      b) apathetic                      c) oppressive                      d) superficial

Each of the following items consists of a word in capital letters, followed by four words or group of words. Select the word or group of words that is most similar in meaning to the word in capital letters.

21. BEMOAN

- a) Lament                      b) Pacify                      c) Request                      d) Imagine

22. PROSAIC

- a) Dull and ordinary                      b) Slow and steady                      c) Grand                      d) Precious

23. ELOQUENT

- a) Ambiguous                      b) Graceful                      c) Fluent                      d) Productive

24. FRAIL

- a) Astute                      b) Delicate                      c) Foolish                      d) Immature

25. DERELICT

- a) Derogatory                      b) Depressing                      c) Ramshackle                      d) Sluggish

26. INJUNCTION

- a) Embargo                      b) Injustice                      c) Ruling                      d) Reproach

27. IMPLORE

- a) Entreat                      b) Put into Practice                      c) Interfere                      d) Transmit

28. GROTESQUE

- a) Boring                      b) Gripping                      c) Monstrous                      d) Obnoxious

29. PERTINENT

- a) Dependable                      b) Relevant                      c) Remarkable                      d) Sensible

30. ESCALATE

- a) Rise                      b) Diminish                      c) Roll on                      d) Spiral

31. FLIPPANT

- a) Disrespectful                      b) Polite                      c) Serious                      d) Wrong

32. ALACRITY

- a) Cleanliness                      b) Cleverness                      c) Eagerness                      d) Reluctance

33. BLEMISHES

- a) Qualities                      b) Faults                      c) Bruises                      d) Vices

34. INCESSANT

- a) Uncertain                      b) Ceaseless                      c) Unshaken                      d) Successive

35. CRYPTIC

- a) Elaborate                      b) Obscure                      c) A warning                      d) Cautionary

36. CLEMENCY

- a) Harshness                      b) Mercy                      c) Stiffness                      d) Seriousness

37. ABOMINABLE

- a) Disgusting                      b) Lovable                      c) Abusive                      d) Undisciplined

38. SCOWL

- a) Scar                      b) Frown                      c) Pimple                      d) Smile

39. EXONERATE

- a) Absolve                      b) Implicate                      c) Exempt                      d) Entangle

40. ARRAIGN

- a) Punish                      b) Pardon                      c) Summon                      d) Indict

41. SKIRMISH

- a) Fight                      b) Contact                      c) Enmity                      d) Relations

42. GAUCHE

- a) Vain                      b) Tactless                      c) Rich                      d) Polished

43. ABORTIVE

- a) Futile                      b) Unyielding                      c) Effective                      d) Methodical

44. SALUBRIOUS

- a) Healthy                      b) Outdoor                      c) Spacious                      d) Luxurious

45. CANTANKEROUS

- a) Talkative                      b) Aggressive                      c) Quarrelsome                      d) Obedient

Key

- 1) b      2) d      3) d      4) a      5) a      6) a      7) a      8) d  
9) c      10) b      11) a      12) a      13) b      14) a      15) c      16) d  
17) c      18) d      19) a      20) b      21) a      22) a      23) c      24) b  
25) c      26) a      27) a      28) c      29) b      30) a      31) a      32) c  
33) b      34) b      35) b      36) b      37) a      38) b      39) a      40) d  
41) a      42) b      43) a      44) a      45) c