



# UNIT 2

## LECTURE 4

### VOCABULARY

# LIST OF SOME COMMONLY USED AND ASKED WORDS IN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS:



## 1. QUIXOTIC

**Pronunciation:** kwik-sot-ik

**Meaning:** Not sensible about practical matters; idealistic and unrealistic

**Synonyms:** dreamy, foolish, impractical, impulsive, unrealistic

**Antonyms:** hardheaded, hard-nosed, tough-minded, unsentimental; practical, pragmatic

**Usage:** Our quixotic prime minister may need Labour to save him in Europe



DID THE PUBLIC BUY ANY  
OF YOUR QUIXOTIC IDEAS  
TODAY?

SHARE  
YOUR  
HEALTH!



# Quixotic

(kwiks-ot'ik) ADJ.

IDEALISTIC AND UTTERLY  
IMPRACTICAL.





## ○ 2. TRANSGRESS

**Pronunciation:** trans-gres

**Meaning:** To break a law.

**Synonyms:** infringe, violate, trespass, disobey, contravene

**Antonyms:** comply, acquiesce, comply, acquire, obey

**Usage:** The officers should be careful not to transgress human rights

## ○ 3. SOMNIFEROUS

**Pronunciation:** som-nif-er-uh s

**Meaning:** Tending to produce sleep.

**Synonyms:** soporific, somnific, somnolent, drowsy, slumberous

**Antonyms:** stimulative, awakening, invigorating, refreshing, reviving

**Usage:** Ms. Schwend's play "The Other Thing," at Second Stage uptown last year, turned thrilling after a somniferous first half (source: New York Times)



## POLL QUESTION:

Which of the below is the possible synonym for **SOMNIFEROUS**

- a. Awakening
- b. Reviving
- c. Refreshing
- d. drowsy



# ANSWER

- drowsy





#### ○ 4. GROTESQUE

**Pronunciation:** groh-tesk

**Meaning:** Incongruously composed or ill-proportioned

**Synonyms:** bizarre, outlandish, queer, freakish, ludicrous

**Antonyms:** aesthetic, classy, bonny, comely, elegant

**Usage:** During the pro-life event, a local Satanist group arrived and conducted a disturbingly grotesque counter-protest.

#### ○ 5. CAMARADERIE

**Pronunciation:** ka-muh-raa-duh-ree

**Meaning:** a feeling of friendship and trust among a group of people who work together or share an experience

**Synonyms:** companionship, intimacy, comradeship, jollity

**Antonyms:** gloom, dislike, hate

**Usage:** There is a spirit of camaraderie between officers and men in Frjus that one never sees in native regiments of the British army.



## POLL QUESTION

Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning to the word **GROTESQUE**

- a. Queer
- b. Bizarre
- c. Elegant





ANSWER

Elegant





## 6. UNPRECEDENTED

**Pronunciation:** uhn ·preh ·suh ·duhn ·tuhd

**Meaning:** without previous instance; never before known or experienced; unexampled or unparalleled

**Synonyms:** unusual, unrivalled, uncommon, unmatched

**Antonyms:** regular, usual, unexceptional **Usage:** Put before the people of America the leading facts relating to this *unprecedented* and enormous visitation of calamity.

## 7. SUCCOR

**Pronunciation:** suhk-er

**Meaning:** help; relief, assistance.

**Synonyms:** sustenance, aid **Antonyms:** obstruction, hurt, hindrance **Usage:** For the moment, therefore, he could do nothing more but look for *succor*.





# SUCCOR

Help given to someone, especially someone who is suffering or in need.

*Succor = Shakkar*

*Simple. In times of distress, we need the sugar of relief, don't we?*



## 8. EGREGIOUS



**Pronunciation:** ih-gree-juhs, -jee-uhs

**Meaning:** outstandingly bad; shocking.

**Synonyms:** extraordinary in some bad way; glaring; flagrant:

**Antonyms:** tolerable, moderate, minor, unnoticeable.

**Usage:** The **egregious** mistake these couples made was not spending enough time seriously planning for a lifetime together in marriage.

## 9. TACITURN

**Pronunciation:** 'ta-sə- ,tərn

**Meaning:** reserved; saying little; A taciturn person does not say very much and can seem unfriendly.

**Synonyms:** Close, Silent, Uncommunicative

**Antonyms:** blabby, chatty, communicative, conversational

**Usage:** A taciturn man, he replied to my questions in monosyllables.





## 10. DISCERNING

**Pronunciation:** di-'sər-niŋ

**Meaning:** showing insight and understanding

**Synonyms:** Perceive, recognize

**Antonyms:** unperceptive, unwise

**Usage:** portions of these discerning travel guides are available to the everyman for free on Apple Maps.

## 11. ANACHRONISTIC

**Pronunciation:** uh-nak-ruh-nis-tik

**Meaning:** Out of the context of time, out of date

**Synonyms:** antiquated, archaic, out-of-date, outmoded, ancient, fossil

**Antonyms:** current, in vogue, contemporary

**Usage:** The New York Sun printed a letter, not long ago, in which the drawings were declared to be anachronistic.



# POLL QUESTION

How would you best describe the things in this picture?

- A. GROTESQUE
- B. TREACHEROUS
- C. ANACHRONISTIC



ANSWER

ANACHRONISTIC





## 12. COALESCE

**Pronunciation:** kow-uh-les

**Meaning:** to blend or come together

**Synonyms:** incorporate, join, merge, cleave

**Antonyms:** remove, loosen, disjoin, disconnect

**Usage:** The two nuclei come into contact and coalesce, and we have thus a new cell with its sixteen chromosomes complete.

## 13. INADVERTENTLY

**Pronunciation:** "IN"- "uhd" -"VUR" -"tuhnt- "lee"

**Meaning:** 1. unintentionally; without meaning to 2. Through lack of attention; without anyone noticing:

**Synonyms:** negligently, recklessly, heedlessly, and rashly

**Antonyms:** careful, observant, accurate

**Usage:** I'm worried that we might be inadvertently watering down the quality of the data.







## 14. LACKLUSTRE

**Pronunciation:** lak- ,lə-stər

**Meaning:** lacking force, brilliance, or vitality

**Synonyms:** obscure, unimaginative, somber, lusterless

**Antonyms:** lively, shining, and enthusiastic

**Usage:** He has already been blamed for his party's lackluster performance during the election campaign

## 15. SUCCINCT

**Pronunciation:** suhk ·singkt

**Meaning:** marked by compact precise expression without wasted words

**Synonyms:** brief, concise, telegraphic

**Antonyms:** wordy, diffuse, and verbose

**Usage:** Together, the equations formed a succinct theory now known as the Standard Model of particle physics.

## 16. SURREPTITIOUS

**Pronunciation:** suh-ruh-p-ti-shuhs

**Meaning:** done secretly,

**Synonyms:** clandestine, behind the scenes, sneaky, undercover

**Antonyms:** open, overt, public

**Usage:** She seemed to be listening to what I was saying, but I couldn't help noticing her surreptitious glances at the clock.





"Finally, a succinct corporate mission statement."



## 17. BELLIGERENCE

**Pronunciation:** buh ·li juh ruhns

**Meaning:** the wish to fight or argue

**Synonyms:** aggression, defiance, quarrelsomeness

**Antonyms:** nonaggression, pacifism, friendliness, geniality

**Usage:** Terrorism is a new and unprecedented form of belligerence, a new form of war.



## 18. VICISSITUDE

**pronunciation:** vi-sis-i-tood, -tyood

**Meaning:** a change or variation occurring in the course of something; interchange or alternation

**Synonyms:** variation, fluctuation, permutation, alteration, diversity

**Antonyms:** uniformity, stability, similarity, stagnation, conformity

**Usage:** However, our ancestors concluded that the vicissitude could be corrected by better government.

## 19. ELOQUENCE

**Pronunciation:** eh-luh-kvns

**Meaning:** the art or power of speaking or writing in a forceful and convincing way

**Synonyms:** articulacy, rhetoric, fluency

**Antonyms:** incompetence, weakness, inability

**Usage:** millions have been inspired by the eloquence of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech



**Which word best describe  
this picture?**

- A. ELOQUENCE
- B. EGREGIOUS



## 20. TREACHEROUS

**Pronunciation:** treh ·chuh ·ruhs

**Meaning:** Treacherous means not trusted or dangerous; likely to betray trust

**Synonyms:** unfaithful, deceptive, perilous, misleading

**Antonyms:** harmless, true, reliable, honest

**Usage:** His stabs are delivered like those of a bravo, who hides his face as he deals his treacherous blow



## 21. JUXTAPOSE

**Pronunciation:** juhk ·stuh ·powz

**Meaning:** to place (different things) side by side (as to compare them or contrast them or to create an interesting effect)

**Synonyms:** colligate, appose, bring together

**Antonyms:** discrete, apart, detached, isolate, disconnected

**Usage:** It is interesting to juxtapose the lifestyle of today's teenage generation with their grandparents' generation.





## 22. ELUCIDATE

**Pronunciation:** uh ·loo ·suhd ·eit

**Meaning:** to give a clarifying explanation.

**Synonyms:** explain, illuminate, explicate

**Antonyms:** confuse, obscure, conceal, be vague

**Usage:** He gave himself out as an angel sent from God to elucidate the prophecies.

## 23. ADUMBRATE

**Pronunciation:** a ·duhm ·breit

**Meaning:** to give only the main facts and not the details about something, especially something that will happen in the future

**Synonyms:** outline, suggest, obfuscate, portend, foretell

**Antonyms:** illuminate, brighten, Lighten,

**Usage:** The recent development adumbrates a world - wide revolution in computer technology.



# ELUCIDATE

Always good to clarify matters!  
After all, that is what  
elucidate means.



[www.wordpandit.com](http://www.wordpandit.com)





## ○ 24. SUBSERVIENCE

**Pronunciation:** suh b-sur-vee-uh nt

**Meaning:** The quality, character, or condition of being servilely following another's behests **Synonyms:** servility, obedience, subjection, docility, humility **Antonyms:** domination, obstinacy, sovereignty, arrogance, balkiness  
**Usage:** Ordinary people can defeat the Right, but doing so will require ending our subservience to the Democratic Party

## ○ 25. REPERCUSSION

**Pronunciation:** ree puh ·kuh ·shn

**Meaning:** an unintended consequence of an event or action, especially an unwelcome one. **Synonyms:** consequence, outcome, **Antonyms:** helplessness, impotence, impotency, powerlessness, weakness **Usage:** The repercussions of world events were seen on the stock market price.



Which of the word best describe the picture?

- A. ELUCIDATION
- B. BELLIGERENCE
- C. SUBSERVIENCE



ANSWER

SUBSERVIENCE



# IMPORTANT WORDS USED IN EDITORIALS OF REPUTED NEWSPAPERS



1. **Unscrupulous** Without principles, Unethical

**Usage:** His internal policy was blind, reckless and unscrupulous, and inevitably led to disaster.

2. **Incumbent** Necessary as a duty

**Usage:** The incumbent president faces problems which began many years before he took office.

3. **Teetering** Moving unsteadily

**Usage:** Their economy is teetering on the brink of collapse

4. **Colloquially** Informal language

**Usage:** The people who write parking tickets in New York are known colloquially as "brownies".



**5. Intransigent** Refusing to change one's views

**Usage:** They put pressure on the Government to change its intransigent stance.

**6. Milieu** Surroundings

**Usage:** The manager develops an understanding of his milieu by piecing together all the scraps of data he can find.

**7. Envisaged** Visualized

**Usage:** It is hard to **envisage** us having political arrangements that do not include nation-states.

**8. Saddled** Burdened

**Usage:** Companies saddled with high debt have become inviting targets for cash-rich competitors.





## 9. Scragged Strangled

**Usage:** These scragged posts show that freedom of speech is still a contentious issue, but freedom of speech means nothing unless we grant it to people we dislike.

## 10. Remunerative

A benefit in monetary terms

**Usage:** Poverty arises because of the lack of remunerative and secure forms of employment.



# COMMON PHRASES AND TERMS USED IN BUSINESSES AND CORPORATES





## 1. Blue sky thinking

The archetypal piece of office jargon, the term “blue sky thinking” is another way of expressing the idea of “thinking outside the box”.

## 2. Bleeding Edge

This is one I've been hearing more and more lately. When being "cutting edge" isn't quite enough, we get this term for being ahead of trends.

## 3. Move the Needle

This term is often used in sales or marketing, when a certain amount of effort is required to make a noticeable difference.





## 4. Ballpark

People use ballpark to mean “estimate of an amount.” They may want to know a ballpark number based on your best guess with the data you have at the time. You may even hear it as a verb: “Let’s ballpark the quarterly figures.”

## 5. Incentivize

Employees don’t always love their work. That’s why employers often incentivize productivity – using incentives to make employees more productive. These incentives often include public recognition, job promotions, or pay raises. Companies also incentivize customers to return with customer loyalty programs and discounts.

## 6. Low-Hanging Fruit

When picking fruit from a tree, the low-hanging fruit are the easiest to reach. That’s what corporations mean when they direct you to go after the low-hanging fruit: reach the easiest customer base or project objective possible before going after a more challenging goal.







## 7. Make it disruptive

It better be BIG, and make us money, fast.

## 8. We're sticking to our core competency

We poked around and have proven ourselves incompetent in other areas.

## 9. Customer-centric

A popular term because it makes people sound smart and caring. Plus, there's alliteration in there.

## 10. Cut corners

The new filing system won't work if we **cut corners**.

“To cut corners” is to complete a task in a fast and careless way. To do something without paying attention to details, thereby making mistakes or causing new problems.





## 11. Call it a day

Right team, we've made plenty of progress, I think it's time to **call it a day!**

The trial hasn't worked, I'm afraid we're going to have to **call it a day.**

To “call it a day” means that you are giving up on something. This can refer to taking a break on a project because you have reached a good point to stop, or to stopping something completely. It can be negative or positive, depending on the context.

Taken literally, it is a phrase stating that the working day is officially over: that was a whole day, I declare that day finished!

## 12. Keep me in the loop

**Keep Stuart in the loop** when discussing the merger, please.

**Keep me in the loop** on decisions about the targets for the next quarter.

To “keep me/her/him/them in the loop” means to keep someone involved and updated about developments in a project. It comes from “looping” someone into an email chain — that is, cc'ing them into the digital conversation. Check out our **guide to writing emails in English** for more on this.

You can “keep someone in the loop” by informing them of what happens in meetings, and alerting them when decisions are made.



### 13. Get the ball rolling

Hopefully we can **get the ball rolling** on the new pitch next week.

To “get the ball rolling” means to get started on something; to begin making meaningful progress

### 14. Due diligence

We’ve done our **due diligence** and none of the other contractors seem more qualified.

Until very recently, “due diligence” was a term only used in a legal context. It used to describe the action that is considered reasonable for people to take in order to stay safe, and on the correct side of the law.

In business jargon, “due diligence” refers to the necessary research behind a good decision. If you have done your “due diligence,” then you have given an issue the attention it deserves and weighed alternatives to the solution you intend to take.



## POLL QUESTION

Let's both gather some information, and we can  
\_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow afternoon.

- A. Keep in touch
- B. Touch and go
- C. Touch base



ANSWER

Touch base



## POLL QUESTION

**In a meeting, you hear someone say ‘let’s wrap this up.’ What do they mean?**

- A. It’s time to finish the meeting.
- B. They want to sum up what people have already spoken about.
- C. They want to gift wrap a present for the boss.
- D. It’s time to order taco wraps (a type of Mexican food).



# ANSWER

It's time to finish the meeting.



## POLL QUESTION

**What does 'pull your weight' mean?**

- A. To work as hard as other people.
- B. To make your briefcase heavier.
- C. To make sure you diet at work.





***THANK YOU FOR LEARNING!***

