

Weekly The Hindu Editorial Words 13th Sep. 2020

1. Status quo ante

- ✓ The previously existing state of affairs.
- ✓ "A reversion to the status quo ante"

2. Strike a discordant note

- ✓ Appear strange and out of place.
- ✓ "The chair's modernity struck a discordant note in a room full of eighteenth-century furniture"

3. Prerequisite

- ✓ **Noun:** a thing that is required as a prior condition for something else to happen or exist.
- ✓ "Sponsorship is not a **prerequisite** for any of our courses"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Necessary condition, precondition, condition, essential, requirement, requisite, necessity, proviso.
- ✓ **Opposite:**
- ✓ Non-essential
- ✓ **Adjective:** required as a prior condition.
- ✓ "The student must have the prerequisite skills"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Necessary, needed, required, called for, essential, requisite.

4. Veneer

- ✓ **Noun:** a thin decorative covering of fine wood applied to a coarser wood or other material.
- ✓ "A fine-grained veneer"
- ✓ **Verb:** cover (something) with a decorative layer of fine wood.
- ✓ "Factories employed cabinetmakers to veneer looking glasses"

5. Broad-brush (Adj.)

- ✓ Lacking in detail and finesse.
- ✓ "A broad-brush measure of inflation"

6. Sabotage

- ✓ **Verb:** deliberately destroy, damage, or obstruct (something), especially for political or military advantage.
- ✓ "Power lines from South Africa were sabotaged by rebel forces"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Wreck, deliberately damage, vandalize, destroy, obstruct, disrupt, cripple, impair, incapacitate, spoil, ruin, undermine, filibuster, damage, threaten, subvert.

- ✓ **Noun:** the action of sabotaging something.
- ✓ "A coordinated campaign of sabotage"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Wrecking, deliberate damage, vandalism, destruction, obstruction, disruption.

7. **Doubtless (Adv.)**

- ✓ Certainly; without doubt.
- ✓ "The company would doubtless find the reduced competition to their liking"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Undoubtedly, indubitably, doubtlessly, no doubt, without (a) doubt, beyond (a) doubt, beyond the shadow of a doubt, unquestionably, beyond question, indisputably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, irrefutably, and unequivocally.
- ✓ **Opposite:**
- ✓ Possibly
- ✓ **Presumably or very probably.**
- ✓ "Doubtless you'll solve the problem"

8. **Thaw (N)**

- ✓ **An increase in friendliness:**
- ✓ There are signs of a thaw in relations between the two countries.

9. **Manoeuvre (N)**

- ✓ A movement or series of moves requiring skill and care.
- ✓ "Snowboarders performed daring manoeuvres on precipitous slopes"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Operation, exercise, activity, move, movement, action.
- ✓ A large-scale military exercise of troops, warships, and other forces.
- ✓ "The Russian vessel was **on manoeuvres**"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Training exercises, exercises, war games, operations.

10. **Manoeuvre (V)**

- ✓ Move skilfully or carefully.
- ✓ "The lorry was unable to manoeuvre comfortably in the narrow street"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Steer, guide, drive, negotiate, navigate, pilot, direct, manipulate, move, work, jockey.
- ✓ **Carefully guide or manipulate (someone or something) in order to achieve an end.**
- ✓ "They were manoeuvring him into betraying his friend"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Intrigue, plot, scheme, plan, lay plans, and conspire.

11. Debt investment (N)

- ✓ A debt investment involves loaning your money to an institution or organization in exchange for the promise of a return of your principal plus **interest**. When you put money into your **bank** account, you are loaning money to the **bank** in exchange for a stated rate of **interest**.

12. Investment vehicle (N)

- ✓ An investment **vehicle** is a product used by investors to gain positive returns. Other types of investment **vehicles** include annuities; collectibles, such as art or coins; mutual funds; and exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

13. Retrograde (Adj.)

- ✓ Directed or moving backwards.
- ✓ "A retrograde flow"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Backward, backwards, reverse, rearward, directed backwards, retreating, retrogressive.
- ✓ **Opposite:**
- ✓ Forward
- ✓ **Reverting to an earlier and inferior condition.**
- ✓ "To go back on the progress that has been made would be a retrograde step"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ For the worse, regressive, negative, downhill, unwelcome.

14. Hang fire (Ph. V)

- ✓ Delay or be delayed in taking action or progressing.
- ✓ "A near agreement was hanging fire because of the concerns of some provinces"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Delay, hang back, hold back, hold on, stall, stop, pause, cease.

15. Lay bare (Idiom)

- ✓ To reveal or uncover private information or feelings.
- ✓ He laid bare his soul.
- ✓ The book is an attempt to lay bare the secrets of this very powerful political family.

16. Voyeuristic (Adj.)

- ✓ Relating to or denoting sexual pleasure gained from watching others when they are naked or engaged in sexual activity.
- ✓ "Women as objects of voyeuristic pleasure"
- ✓ **Deriving or relating to enjoyment from seeing the pain or distress of others.**
- ✓ "The voyeuristic pleasure of spying on relationships under pressure"

17. All hell breaks (or is let) loose

- ✓ Suddenly there is pandemonium.

- ✓ "The police arrived one night and all hell broke loose"

18. Estranged (Adj.)

- ✓ (Of a person) no longer close or affectionate to someone; alienated.
- ✓ "Harriet felt more **estranged from** her daughter than ever"
- ✓ **(Of a wife or husband) no longer living with their spouse.**
- ✓ "His estranged wife"

19. Death vs Demise

- ✓ The difference is that **death** is the cessation of life and all associated processes; the end of an organism's existence as an entity independent from its environment and its return to an inert, nonliving state while **demise** is (legal) the conveyance **or** transfer of an estate, either in fee for life **or** for years, most commonly the latter.

20. Blood sport (N)

- ✓ A sport involving the hunting, wounding, or killing of animals.
- ✓ "Blood sports such as dogfighting and cockfighting"

21. Drawdown (N)

- ✓ A reduction in the size or presence of a military force.
- ✓ "The unit is the first to leave Germany as part of the drawdown"
- ✓ **A decline in an investment or fund.**
- ✓ "The drawdown seemed to be concentrated in the smaller hedge funds"

22. Chasm (N)

- ✓ A deep fissure in the earth's surface.
- ✓ "A chasm a mile long"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Gorge, abyss, canyon, ravine, gully, gulf, pass, defile, couloir, crevasse, cleft, rift.
- ✓ **A profound difference between people, viewpoints, feelings, etc.**
- ✓ "The **chasm between** rich and poor"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Breach, gulf, rift, division, schism, split, severance.

23. Milieu (N)

- ✓ A person's social environment.
- ✓ "Gregory came from the same aristocratic milieu as Sidonius"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Environment, background, backdrop, setting, context, atmosphere.

24. Drop the ball

- ✓ Make a mistake; mishandle things.
- ✓ "I really dropped the ball on this one"

25. Alacrity

- ✓ Brisk and cheerful readiness.
- ✓ "She accepted the invitation with alacrity"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Eagerness, willingness, readiness, enthusiasm, ardour, fervour.

26. Whip up (Ph. V)

- ✓ To prepare something quickly or easily: We **whipped up** a light lunch before setting out. I **whipped up** some oatmeal **up** in just a few minutes.
- ✓ **Whip up on:** To defeat someone decisively; outdo someone: The home team **whipped up** on its rival last weekend.

27. (Just) around (or round) the corner

- ✓ Very near.
- ✓ "There's a chemist round the corner"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Close by, nearby.

28. In the pipeline

- ✓ If something is **in the pipeline**, it has already been planned or begun.
- ✓ Already in the pipeline is a 2.9 per cent pay increase for teachers.
- ✓ **Synonyms:**
- ✓ On the way, expected, coming, close.

29. Harry

- ✓ Persistently carry out attacks on (an enemy or an enemy's territory).
- ✓ "The raiders then spent three months harrying and burning the area"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Attack, assail, assault, maraud, ravage, devastate, wreak havoc on, plunder, rob, sack, ransack, raid, pillage, lay waste to, despoil, depredate, and reave.
- ✓ **Persistently harass.**
- ✓ "The government is being mercilessly harried by a new lobby"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Harassed, hard-pressed, beleaguered, agitated, flustered.

30. Blitz

- ✓ An intensive or sudden military attack.
- ✓ "A heavy artillery blitz"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Bombardment, battery, bombing, onslaught, barrage, sally, attack, assault, raid, offensive, strike, blitzkrieg.
- ✓ **INFORMAL:** a sudden concerted effort to deal with something.
- ✓ "Katrina and I had a **blitz on** the cleaning"

✓ **Similar:**

✓ All-out effort, effort, exertion, endeavour, onslaught, attack.

31. Jingoism

✓ **DEROGATORY:** extreme patriotism, especially in the form of aggressive or warlike foreign policy.

✓ "The popular jingoism that swept the lower–middle classes"

✓ **Similar:**

✓ Extreme patriotism, blind patriotism, chauvinism, extreme nationalism, flag-waving.

32. Daunting

✓ Seeming difficult to deal with in prospect; intimidating.

✓ "A daunting task"

✓ **Similar:**

✓ Intimidating, formidable, disconcerting, unnerving, unsettling.

33. Inexorable

✓ Impossible to stop or prevent.

✓ "The seemingly inexorable march of new technology"

✓ **Similar:**

✓ Relentless, unstoppable, unavoidable, inescapable, inevitable, irrevocable, persistent.

✓ **(Of a person) impossible to persuade; unrelenting.**

✓ "The doctors were inexorable, and there was nothing to be done"

✓ **Similar:**

✓ Intransigent, unbending, unyielding, inflexible, unswerving.

34. Chimeric

✓ (Of a mythical animal) formed from parts of various animals.

✓ "The design is based on a chimeric creature with the body of a turtle and the head of a dragon"

✓ **Hoped for but illusory or impossible to achieve.**

✓ "The notion of tolerance is a chimeric dream"

35. Facade

✓ The principal front of a building, that faces on to a street or open space.

✓ "The house has a half-timbered facade"

✓ **Similar:**

✓ Front, frontage, face, aspect, elevation, exterior, outside.

✓ **A deceptive outward appearance.**

✓ "Her flawless public facade masked private despair"

✓ **Similar:**

- ✓ Show, front, appearance, false display, pretence, simulation.

36. Aggrandisement

- ✓ The act of increasing the wealth or prestige or power or scope of something; "the aggrandizement of the king"; "his elevation to cardinal" aggrandizement, elevation.

37. Attenuation

- ✓ The reduction of the force, effect, or value of something.
- ✓ "Human security required the attenuation of a wide range of threats to people"
- ✓ The reduction of the amplitude of a signal, electric current, or other oscillation.
- ✓ "The products are used mostly by aircraft manufacturers for noise attenuation in engine housings"

38. Overshadow

- ✓ Tower above and cast a shadow over.
- ✓ "An enormous oak tree stood overshadowing the cottage"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Shade, darken, conceal, obscure, block out, obliterate, eclipse, and dominate.
- ✓ **Appear more prominent or important than.**
- ✓ "His competitive nature often overshadows the other qualities"

39. Railroad

- ✓ **INFORMAL:** rush or coerce (someone) into doing something.
- ✓ "She hesitated, unwilling to be **railroaded into** a decision"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Coerce, force, compel, badger, pressure, and pressurize.

40. Parity

- ✓ The state or condition of being equal, especially as regards status or pay.
- ✓ "Parity of incomes between rural workers and those in industrial occupations"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Equality, equivalence, uniformity, sameness, consistency.

41. Co-morbidity

- ✓ Not to be confused as symptoms of diabetes, **co-morbidities** are diseases or medical conditions that coexist with primary diseases, but also stands as its own specific disease. An example of this would be the relationship between diabetes and hypertension.

42. Kick off

- ✓ (Of a football match) be started or resumed by a player kicking the ball from the centre spot.
- ✓ "World Cup games will kick off in the afternoon"
- ✓ **INFORMAL•BRITISH:** become very angry; suddenly start an argument or fight.

- ✓ "I don't want her kicking off at me again"

43. Astronomical

- ✓ Relating to astronomy.
- ✓ "Astronomical observations"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Celestial, planetary, stellar, astronomic, heavenly.
- ✓ **INFORMAL:** (of an amount) extremely large.
- ✓ "He wanted an astronomical fee"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Huge, enormous, very large, very great, very big, prodigious.

44. Kick in

- ✓ Come into effect or operation.
- ✓ "The hospital's emergency generators kicked in"

45. Wherewithal

- ✓ The money or other means needed for a particular purpose.
- ✓ "They lacked the wherewithal to pay"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Money, ready money, cash, capital, finance(s), resources.

46. Flip side

- ✓ **INFORMAL:** the less important side of a pop single; the B-side.
- ✓ Another aspect or version of something, especially its reverse or its unwanted concomitant.
- ✓ "Our recent pessimism is the flip side of an exaggerated optimism"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Other side, reverse side, back, rear, underside, wrong side.

47. Old wine in new bottle

- ✓ An existing concept or institution offered as though it were a **new** one.

48. Akin

- ✓ Of similar character.
- ✓ "Something **akin to** gratitude overwhelmed her"
- ✓ **Similar:**
- ✓ Similar, related, close, near, corresponding, comparable, parallel, equivalent.
- ✓ **Opposite:**
- ✓ Unlike.
- ✓ Related by blood.
- ✓ "My parents were akin, probably half cousins"

49. Stumbling block

- ✓ A circumstance that causes difficulty or hesitation.

✓ "The country's water shortage was a stumbling block to investors"

✓ **Similar:**

✓ Obstacle, hurdle, barrier, bar, hindrance, impediment.

50. Laudable

✓ (Of an action, idea, or aim) deserving praise and commendation.

✓ "Laudable though the aim might be, the results have been criticized"

✓ **Similar:**

✓ Praiseworthy, commendable, admirable, meritorious, worthy.