

WORD OF THE WEEK

(14th Aug 2017 to 21st Aug 2017)

Std. V

Terse (Adjective)

Meaning: a very short statement or remark.

Origin: early 17th century from latin tersus 'wiped, polished' from the verb tergere.

Synonyms: abrupt, clear cut, compact.

Antonyms: lengthy, long winded, prolix, wordy.

Sentences:

1. When Jessie is angry, she only gives terse responses.
2. Surrounded by reporters, the actress made a very terse statement and ran to her car.
3. With one terse sentence, the company president created silence on the boardroom.
4. Although Phillip is known for making long speeches, this speech was incredibly terse.

Std. VI

Tirade (Noun)

Origin- Early 19th century: from French, literally 'long speech', from Italian tirata 'volley', from tirare 'to pull'.

Meaning- a long, angry speech of criticism or accusation.

Synonyms- anger, censure, berating, condemnation

Antonyms- calm, harmony, peace

Sentences-

- 1) The politician's tirade against the proposed law lasted for nearly two hours.
- 2) Because Jay is a normally a laidback person, he shocked everyone with his tirade.
- 3) The police arrested my uncle Jack after he refused to end his tirade outside the courthouse.
- 4) When the airline representative told me my luggage was lost, I responded to the announcement with a tirade.
- 5) If my daughter does not get everything she wants for Christmas, she will launch a tirade.

Std. VII

Posterity:- Noun

Origin:-1350 – 1400 ; Middle English Posterite< Latin posteritas , noun derivative of Posterus coming after.

Meaning:- All future generations of people

Synonyms:-descendents , succeeding generations , progeny , spawn , childrens

Antonyms :- ancestor , antecedent , forebear , parent , progenitor.

Sentences :-

- 1) Posterity will remember her as a woman of courage and integrity.
- 2) A record of the events was preserved for posterity.
- 3) The truth about what happened will be known to posterity.
- 4) And our victory in that war decided not just a century, but shaped the security and wellbeing of all posterity.
- 5) The man took photographs for posterity.

Std. VIII

Postulate

Meaning – {Noun}-a thing suggested or assumed as true as the basis for reasoning, discussion, or belief.

ii) **{Verb}** nominate or elect (someone) to an ecclesiastical office subject to the sanction of a higher authority.

Origin- late Middle English from Latin postulat- ‘asked’, from the verb postulare.

Synonyms- put forward, propose, assumption, supposition

Antonyms- disclaim, controvert, question

Sentences-

1. Despite his lack of formal education, Carl was able to postulate a solution to a problem that had bothered his employers for a while.
2. One of the jobs of a debate moderator is to postulate questions that will bring about a discussion between the two debaters.
3. Because John is quite arrogant, he will often postulate on subjects on which he has very little knowledge.

Std. IX

Vassal: (Noun)

Meaning- (in the feudal system) a person granted the use of land, in return for rendering homage, fealty, and usually military service or its equivalent to a lord or other superior; feudal tenant; a servant or slave.

Origin: C14: via Old French from Medieval Latin *vassallus*, from *vassus* servant, of Celtic origin; compare Welsh *gwas* boy, Old Irish *foss* servant mid-15c. (c.1200 as a surname) "tenant who pledges fealty to a lord, "from Old French *vassal*, from Medieval Latin *vassallus* "manservant, domestic, retainer," from *vassus* "servant," from Old Celtic **wasso*- "young man, squire" (cf. Welsh *gwas* "youth, servant," Breton *goaz* "servant, vassal, man," Irish *foss* "servant"). The adjective is recorded from 1590s.

Synonyms: beneficiary, bondmen, dependent, helot, liege, serf, slave, subject, subordinate, tenant etc.

Antonyms: freeman, lord, master, owner etc.

Usage:

1. Being a vassal, he follows his master everywhere.
2. I am humble vassal of my lord Shri Ram.
3. Feudalism system prospered due to a large number of vassals.
4. Mr. Pearson depends on hi vassals for farming.
5. Vassals are getting less now-a-days.

Std. X

Grotesque

Meaning- Grotesque (adjective) means anything which is ugly, gross or dreadful. The word was originally derived from a type of art which included distorted or fantastical animal, plant and human forms.

Origin- Middle French and old Italian (*pittura*) *grosttesca*, literally cave painting

First use: 1561

Synonyms- monster, absurd, ridiculous, unaesthetic, harsh, jarring

Antonyms- aesthetic, nice, pretty

Sentences:-

- 1) The hairy monster with his single eye, scarred body, salivating mouth and bulging belly was the most grotesque character in the movie.

- 2) The book became popular among the masses because it uncovered a grotesque truth about the political hypocrisy of the nation.
- 3) The heavy use of navy blue, black, gray and ochre yellow along with haphazard brushstrokes made the painting look grotesque.
- 4) The director asked the art department to create a grotesque mask for the central character of the villain.
- 5) Her aesthetic choices are very different from mine. The way in which she did the interiors of her house was grotesque to say the least.
- 6) The way in which the wealthy spend their money recklessly, is nothing short of grotesque.
- 7) Seeing the dead body being uncovered from the ground was a grotesque sight.

Std. XI

Polemic (po-lem-ic)

Parts of Speech: Noun

Meaning: (1) a strong written or spoken attack against someone else's opinion, belief, practices etc.

(2) An aggressive controversialist.

Origin: French polemique, from Middle French, from polemique controversial, from Greek polemikos

Synonyms: diatribe, invective, rant, argument.

Antonyms: affable, amiable, good tempered.

First use: 1638

Examples: (1) Her book is a fierce polemic against the inequalities in our society.

(2) They managed to discuss the issues without resorting to polemics.

Std. XII

Cornucopia (cor- nu- co- pia)

Parts of Speech: Noun

Meaning: (1) a curved goat's horn overflowing with fruit and ears of grain that is used as a decorative motif emblematic of abundance.

(2) a receptacle shaped like a horn or cone

Origin: Late Latin, from Latin cornu copiae 'horn of plenty'

Synonyms: abundance affluence, plenty

Antonyms: deficiency, inadequacy, insufficiency, undersupply.

First use: 1508

Examples: (1) the market is a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables.

(2) the book includes a cornucopia of wonderful stories.