

## WORD OF THE WEEK

(13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 to 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017)

### Std. V

**Alma mater** (Noun)

**Meaning:** university, school or college that one formerly attended.

**Origin:** In mid-17<sup>th</sup> century from Latin meaning 'generous mother'

**Synonyms:** academy, association, institute

**Sentences:**

1. He started teaching at his alma mater.
2. What are your alma maters?
3. She donated a piece of land to her alma mater.
4. Rich alumni gave their alma mater generous benefactions.

### Std. VI

**Al Fresco**- Adverb, Adjective

[al-fres-koh]

**Origin-** 1745-1755< Italian: in the cool, in a cool place.

**Meaning-** Adverb:-out of doors, in the open air.

Adjective:-outdoor

**Synonyms:-** casual, free, in the open, natural, out of house, woods, healthful.

**Antonyms:-** indoor, internal, inside, middle.

**Sentences:-**

1. While the car was being repaired we consumed an alfresco breakfast by the side of the road.
2. He came across the man shaving alfresco.
3. The patio that surrounds the pool is perfect for alfresco dining and entertaining friends.
4. It is warm enough to eat alfresco all year round.

## Std. VII

**Au Pair** (Noun)

**Meaning:**

1. A Single girl or a boy who helps a host family with childcare and/or housework while Staying as a guest with a host family and generally receiving a small allowance.
2. A young person who lives temporarily with a family abroad in exchange for reciprocal arrangement with his or her own family.

**Origin:** Century 20: from French: on an equal footing, 1965-70; French, literally, even.,

**Synonyms:** nursemaid, day care provider, babysitter, governess.

**Sentences:**

1. She thought she must be our amazing new Italian au pair.
2. Her parents met in a pub in Croydon, where her mother was working as an au pair.
3. You should have seen mine when I worked as au pair in Switzerland.

## Std. VIII

**Bon vivant**

**Origin** – 1690s French; bon – good + vivant – to live

**Part of Speech** – Noun

**Meaning** – a good fellow, a jovial companion, a person who enjoys luxuries and good food

**Synonym** – gourmet, epicurean, gastronomist, aficionado, connoisseur

**Antonym** – ascetic, mean, hog, overeater, stuffer

**Sentences** – 1) Churchill was a bon vivant by nature.

2) He was her sole bon vivant in the true sense of the word.

3) The major in the army was somewhat a bon vivant.

## Std. IX

**Ad nauseam** (Adverb)

**Origin-** Latin, literally ‘to sickness’

**Meaning-** to a sickening degree

**Synonyms:** in detail, at length, lengthy, repeatedly, to an excessive degree, endlessly, long-windedly etc.

**Antonyms:** brief, concise, precise etc.

**Sentences:**

1. His saga continued ad nauseam.
2. Tell me about your project ad nauseam.

## Std. X

**Bete noire** (Noun)

**Meaning:** a person or thing that someone dislikes very much

**Origin:** French, literally, ‘black beast’

**First use:** 1828

**Synonym:** bogey, bugbear, black beast, dread

**Antonyms:** love

**Sentences**

1. I was really concentrating because this Italian has been my bete noire.
2. Time passes differently in bete Noire than it does outside of it.
3. He was, to liberals, the bete noire of politics.
4. Modern dance was his bete noire but Paul Taylor was one of his favourite choreographers.
5. “I wouldn’t call it my bete noire, although I did fall twice.

## Std. XI

### **Carte blanche** (Noun)

French for blank or white card or its Spanish language variant, carta blanca

**Meaning:** Carte blanche, a French phrase meaning ‘unlimited discretionary power to act, ‘unrestricted authority’

Unconditional authority, full discretionary power

**Origin:** 1645-55 French for blank or white card

**Synonyms:** license, free rein, blank cheque, free hand, authority

**Antonyms:** denial, deference, dissension, opposition, protest

### **Sentences:**

- 1) She was given carte blanche to decorate her room as she wished perhaps an unwise decision on part of her parents.
- 2) The government appears to have given the military carte blanche in Afghanistan.
- 3) The landlord has given him carta blanche to redecorate his living room.

## Std. XII

### **A capella** (Adjective or adverb) a cap.pel.la

**Meaning:** without instrumental music

**First use:** circa 1864

**Origin:** 1875-80 Italian a cappella in chapel style

**Synonyms:** choral, without accompaniment

**Antonyms:** accompanied

### **Sentences:**

- 1) I'm going to be singing a capella at a friend's wedding ceremony.
- 2) He encouraged Grotius when only a youth of sixteen to edit capella