

# ENGLISH VOCABULARY

1. Penurious (Adj):- lacking money; excessively unwilling to spend, not having enough money to pay for necessities.

**Synonyms:** parsimonious, hard up, impecunious, in straitened circumstances, penniless, pinched

*Uses: Warren Buffett, famous multi-billionaire, still drives a cheap sedan, not because he is penurious, but because luxury cars are gaudy and impractical.*

2. Turpitude (N):- a corrupt or depraved or degenerate act or practice.

**Synonyms:** depravity, corruption, degeneracy, depravation, putrefaction

*Uses: During his reign, Caligula indulged in unspeakable sexual practices, so it is not surprising that he will forever be remembered for his turpitude.*

3. Byzantine (Adj):- intricate and complex

**Synonyms:** convoluted, involved, knotty, tangled, tortuous

*Uses: Getting a driver's license is not simply a matter of taking a test; the regulations and procedures are so byzantine that many have found themselves at the mercy of the Department of Motor Vehicles.*

4. Expunge (V):- to eliminate completely; remove by erasing or crossing out or as if by drawing a line.

**Synonyms:** excise, scratch, strike

*Uses: When I turned 18, all of the shoplifting and jaywalking charges were expunged from my criminal record.*

5. Aggrandize (V):- increase or intensify.

**Synonyms:** aggrandise, blow up, dramatise, dramatize, embellish, embroider.

*Uses: The history of the past illustrates how Indira Gandhi aggrandized her power to act aggressively in international affairs without considering the wishes of Congress.*

6. Besmirch (V):- charge falsely or with malicious intent; attack the good name and reputation of someone

**Synonyms:** asperse, calumniate, defame, denigrate, slander, smear, smirch, sully.

*Uses: The scandalous remarks in the newspaper besmirch the reputations of every member of the society.*

7. Cantankerous (Adj):- often angry and annoyed

**Synonyms:** ill humoured; irritable, ill tempered, fastidious, truculent,

*Uses: Constantly complaining about his treatment and refusing to cooperate with the hospital staff, he was a cantankerous patient.*

8. Burlesque (V):- give an imitation that ridicules.

**Synonyms:** parody, caricature, spoof, travesty.

*Uses: In Spaceballs, Rick Moranis burlesques Darth Vader of Star Wars, outrageously parodying Vader's stiff walk and hollow voice.*

9. Tenebrous (Adj):- dark and gloomy.

**Synonyms:** Stygian, tenebrific, tenebrious

*Uses: TENEBROUS -> TENT+BRUSH. When you go camping, it is difficult, at night, to find your toothBRUSH inside your TENT because it is so TENEBROUS without street lights*

10. Sartorial (Adj):- related to fashion or clothes.

*Uses: His girlfriend often insulted his lack of any sartorial sense.*