

## Word of the week

15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2021

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### Class V

#### Despot

**Meaning:** a ruler or other person who holds absolute power typically one who exercises it in a cruel or oppressive way

**Origin:** mid 16<sup>th</sup> century from French *despote*

**Synonyms:** tyrant, dictator

**Antonyms:** democrat, elected

**Usage in sentence:**

1. The emperor was a cruel **despot**.
2. The company is run by a benevolent **despot**.

### Class VI

#### ARTFUL

**Meaning-** slyly crafty or cunning

**Origin-** 1610s, "learned, well-versed in the (liberal) arts", also "characterized by technical skill, artistic", from ar(n)+ -ful.

**Synonyms-** sly, crafty, cunning, scheming

**Antonyms-** ingenuous, honest, dull.

**Usage in sentence:**

1. He has shown himself to be an **artful** politician.
2. That man used **artful** means to find out secrets.

## Class VII

**Word-** derring-do

**Meaning-** daring action

**First Known Use** - 1579

**Origin-** Middle English dorring don daring to do, from dorring (gerund of dorren to dare) + don to do

**Synonyms-** Valor, courage, daring, audacity

**Antonyms-** Cowardice, timidity, meekness

**Sentences-**

1. The soldier received a medal of valor for his **derring-do** on the battlefield.
2. When the man rushed into the burning house to save the old woman's cat, he performed nothing but an act of **derring-do**.
3. I'm not very brave so I could never perform a **derring-do** like jumping out of an airplane.
4. As the police officer has a long record of **derring-do** in the field, most people see him as the ideal candidate for sheriff.
5. Jack has a fear of heights so he could never handle the **derring-do** required of a trapeze artist.

## Class VIII

**Rip-roaring**

Meaning : full of energy and vigour

Origin: 1834, altered from uproarious (1821), from rip, 'tear apart'+ uproarious;  
'uproar'

Synonyms : breathtaking, exciting, mind-blowing, joyous

Antonyms : boring, tedious, uninteresting, unexciting

Usage in sentence :

1. The football season got off to a **rip-roaring** start.
2. The film **rip-roaring** success.
3. The party was **rip-roaring**.

## Class IX

**Word** – Apocalypse

**Meaning** – (i) the total destruction of the world.

(ii) the end of the world, as described in the Bible.

**Origin** – From Greek *apokalupsis*, from *apokaluptein* ‘uncover, reveal’, from *apo-* ‘un’- + *kaluptein* ‘to cover’.

**Synonyms** – calamity, catastrophe, disaster

**Antonyms** – miracle, wonder

**Usage in sentences:**

1. Civilization is on the brink of **apocalypse**.
2. Several leading scientists are predicting an environmental **apocalypse**.

## Class XI

Denouement (noun)

Meaning: the end of a play, book, etc., where everything is explained or settled; the end result of a situation

Origin of denouement

First recorded in 1745–55; from French: literally, “an untying,” equivalent to *dénouer* “to untie,” Old French *desnoer* (*des-* + *noer* “to knot,” from Latin *nōdāre*, derivative of *nōdus* “knot”) + *-ment*; see *de-*, *-ment*.

Synonyms: climax, consequence, culmination, end result

Antonym: beginning, commencement

Usage in sentences:

1. In the play's ***denouement***, the two lovers kill themselves.
2. The plot takes us to Paris for the ***denouement*** of the story.
3. In a sad ***denouement*** to a perfect love story, the groom left the bride at the altar.