

Word of the week
Grade V

20th November – 26th November 2023

Lame duck (noun)

Meaning- an unsuccessful person or thing

Origin- coined in 18th century at the London Stock Exchange, to refer to a stockbroker who defaulted on his debts

Synonyms- crumbling power, incumbent

Antonyms- champion, conqueror

Usage in sentences:-

1. The President was a **lame duck** during the end period of his session.
2. A **lame duck** manager cannot bring his business back on to the normal track.

Word of the week
Grade VI

20th November – 26th November 2023

Kingpin (noun)

Meaning- the most important person in a company or organisation, often an illegal organisation

Origin- originated in 1801, from king with a sense of ‘chief’ +pin (n)

Synonyms- expert, specialist, arbiter

Antonyms- inferior, half-pint, underling, zero

Usage in sentences :-

1. He was the **kingpin** of Students Union in school.
2. The police have arrested the **kingpin** of car operation.

Word of the week
Grade VII

20th November – 26th November 2023

Menagerie (noun)

Meaning- A collection of wild animals kept in captivity for exhibition

Origin- Late 17th century: from French ménagerie, from ménage (see ménage)

Synonyms- aquarium collection , exhibition

Antonyms- flora ,defense

Usage in sentences:-

1. The **menagerie** also included giraffes and camels.
2. The father of ten is well known for his **menagerie** of rare creatures including tigers and lions.

Word of the week
Grade VIII

20th November – 26th November 2023

MIDGET (noun)

Meaning – Something or someone of small stature

Origin – the term 'midget' came into prominence in the mid 19th century. It is a term that was originally coin in 1865 referring to an extremely short person.

Synonyms – dwarf, mini, pygmy

Antonyms – giant, colossus, huge

Usage in sentences:

1. The **midget** asked Tina to play a part as his assistant in the magic show.
2. Shannon wasn't interested in signing up for **midget** footballer.

Word of the week
Grade IX

20th November – 26th November 2023

INGENUOUS (Adj)

Meaning- honest, innocent and willing to trust people in a way that sometimes seems foolish

Origin - First recorded in 1590–1600; from Latin ingenuus “native, free-born, honorable, frank; (of studies or occupations) befitting a freeborn person, liberal,” equivalent to in- verb prefix + gen- (base of gignere “to bring into being”) + -uus adjective suffix; see in-2, ingenious, -ous

Synonyms- innocent, simple, childlike

Antonyms- dishonest, artificial, cynical

Usage in Sentences:-

1. She gave **ingenuous** answers to the stranger's entire questions.
2. Only the most **ingenuous** person would believe such a weak excuse.

Word of the week
Grade X

20th November – 26th November 2023

Esoteric (Adjective)

Meaning- something which is very unusual and only understood or liked by a small number of people. It can also mean something is beyond the understanding of most people.

Origin- The word esoteric comes from the Greek word esōterikos which is derived from esōterō which means "inner" or "further inside".

Synonyms- Difficult, puzzling, rarefied, abstract

Antonyms- Simple, familiar etc.

Usage in Sentences:-

1. The world is full of modest people brimming with **esoteric** knowledge.
2. The performers are all masters of their own **esoteric** skills.

Word of the week
Grade XI

20th November – 26th November 2023

Fulminate (Verb)

Meaning- to express vehement protest

Origin- late Middle English: from Latin fulminat- ‘struck by lightning’, from fulmen, fulmin- ‘lightning’. The earliest sense (derived from medieval Latin fulminare) was ‘denounce formally’, later ‘issue formal censures’ (originally said of the Pope).

Synonyms- protest, rail, rage ,rant

Antonyms- approve, assist, be happy, compliment

Usage in sentence:-

1. He **fulminated** against the evils of his time.
2. I had to listen to Michael **fulminating** against the government.

Word of the week
Grade XII

20th November – 26th November 2023

Humdinger (Noun)

Meaning- A remarkable or outstanding person or thing of its kind

Origin- US origin, perhaps a blend of hummer (something that moves fast) + dinger(something outstanding). First attested in a newspaper article in the Daily Enterprise of June 4, 1883

Synonym- Marvel

Antonym- Imperfect

Usage in sentence-

Most of the questions were pretty easy, but the last one was a **humdinger**.
The last storm was a real **humdinger**.