



Glossary

Abundance: A very large quantity of something.

Accolade: An expression of praise or an acknowledgement of merit.

Adaptation: How a living thing changes slightly over time to survive in a changing environment.

Afterlife: A life that begins after death.

Allotment: The giving or sharing out of something.

Altitude: The height of an object above sea level.

Ancient: Of or from a long time ago.

Archaeologist: A person who studies human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of physical remains.

Ascetic: Someone who engages in rigorous spiritual practices to attain a higher consciousness.

Astronaut: A person who is trained to travel in a spacecraft into outer space.

Attachment: The condition of having a bond with someone or something, usually through sentiment or habit.

Auspicious: Favourable or bringing luck; for instance, 'an auspicious beginning'.

Avalanche: The sudden fall of snow, ice or rocks from a mountainside, often occurring when the snow starts melting.

Bay: A broad inlet of the sea where the land curves inwards.

Bewildering: Confusing or perplexing.

Bitumen: A black, sticky substance such as tar or asphalt.

Bonds: Connections.

Bulldozer: A heavy vehicle with a large blade in front used to move soil or rocks.

Cardinal direction: One of the four main directions — north, south, east and west.

Carve: To cut (a hard material) in order to produce an object, design.

Chant: To sing, often loudly; rhythmically and repeatedly.

Choke: To have severe difficulty in breathing because of a constricted or obstructed throat or a lack of air.

Chore: A routine task, especially a household one.

Clink: A sharp ringing sound.

Cloudburst: A sudden violent rainstorm.

Collaborate: Work jointly on an activity or project.

Collapse: To suddenly fall down or give way; such a fall.

Commemorate: To mark the memory of someone or something, often through a ceremony.

Commonality: A sharing of features or characteristics.

Conceive: To form a mental representation of something.

Confiscate: When some authority seizes someone's property.

Confluence: The meeting point of two or more rivers.

Consciousness: The quality or state of being aware, for instance of something within oneself.

Conservation: The prevention of wasteful use of a resource.

Constellation: A group of stars forming a recognisable pattern in the sky.

Constitution: A document that spells out the basic principles and laws of a nation.

Consult: To seek information or advice from.

Consumption: Eating or drinking something; purchasing goods or services.

Context: The background or setting for an event, statement or idea, in terms of which it can be fully understood.

Convention: A way in which something is usually done or agreed upon.

Conventional: Based on or in accordance with a convention.

Convicted: Having been declared guilty, by a jury or a judge, of an offence.

Cooperative: A group of people who voluntarily come together to meet their economic and social needs in a formal way.

Cosmos: The world or the universe as an ordered and harmonious system.

Crucial: Of great importance.

Cultivate: To prepare and use land or any space for crops or gardening.

Dairy: A place where milk is collected and stored.

Decentralise: To transfer control to local offices or authorities.

Dedicated: Devoted to a task or purpose.

Defy: To openly resist or refuse to obey.

Deity: A god or goddess.

Deliberate: Done consciously and intentionally.

Delightful: Highly pleasing.

Depict: To represent or describe through words or a drawing, painting, etc.

Descending: Moving or sloping downwards.

Destiny: Events that will necessarily happen to a particular person, or a power that controls future events.

Deviate: To change from the usual way.

Digging: Extracting from the ground by moving earth.

Dispute: A disagreement or argument.

Distress: Extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain.

Diverse: Showing a great deal of variety.

Economic sectors: Broad groups of activities that help with the economic prosperity of a nation.

Eliminate: To completely remove or get rid of.

Elite: Higher layers of the society, such as rulers, officials, administrators, and often priests.

Empower: To give someone or a group of people the authority or power to do something.

Empowerment: The empowering of someone or a group of people.

Encounter: Unexpectedly meeting with someone or something.

Endanger: To put someone or something at risk or in danger.

Enforce: To cause (something) to happen by necessity or force.

Engrave: To cut or carve a text or a design on some hard surface such as stone or metal.

Enhance: To further improve the quality, value, or extent of something.

Enrich: Improve or enhance the quality or value of.

Enshrine: To preserve something highly respected in a special place or text, etc.

Epic: A long poem generally narrating the adventures of heroes and other great figures of the past.

Equator: An imaginary line on the surface of the Earth that runs at 0° latitude, dividing the Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

Era: A distinct period of time.

Erosion: The loss of soil, rock or land caused typically by the action of the sea, wind or rain.

Eruption: A sudden outbreak of something, typically something unwelcome or noisy.

Estuary: The place where a river meets the sea.

Evolution: The process by which different kinds of living organisms have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth.

Excavate: To dig out.

Excavator: A person who excavates an archaeological site; a large machine that digs and moves earth.

Excursion: A short journey or trip, especially one taken as a leisure activity.

Exemplify: To illustrate by giving an example, or to be an example of.

Exert: To make a physical or mental effort.

Expanse: A wide continuous area.

Exploitation: The action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work.

Exploration: The activity of searching and finding out about something.

Export: Goods or services produced in one country and sold in another country.

Extraction: The action of extracting something, especially using effort or force.

Facilitate: To make an action or process easier.

Factory: Building or group of buildings where final products are manufactured or put together.

Fauna: The animal life of a particular region or period of time.

Favourable: To the advantage of someone or something.

Fee: A payment made in exchange for professional advice or services.

Figurine: A statuette, especially one of a human form.

Financial: Relating to money.

Finished goods: Goods that have completed the manufacturing process.

Flash flood: A sudden local flood, often caused by a cloudburst.

Flora: The plant life of a particular region or period of time.

Folklore: The traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through the generations by word of mouth.

Foothills: A low hill at the base of a mountain or mountain range.

Formulate: To express or prepare methodically.

Fortification: A massive wall surrounding a settlement or city, generally for protective purposes.

Fossils: Remains or impressions of parts of plants or animals found preserved in a petrified form within layers of soil or rocks.

Foster: To encourage the development of something.

Fragile: Easily broken or damaged.

Framework: A basic structure underlying a system, concept, or text.

Franchise: A constitutional right or privilege; or a right granted to an individual or group enabling them to carry out specified commercial activities.

Full-fledged: Completely developed or established.

Fundamental: Something that is very important and forms the base or foundation for something.

Generation: All of the people born and living at about the same time, regarded collectively.

Genetics: The branch of biology that studies how, in plants, animals or humans, certain features and characteristics get passed down from one generation to the next.

Glaring: Giving out or reflecting a strong light.

Gratitude: The quality of being thankful; appreciation for kindness.

Greenhouse farming: Growing plants in a controlled environment, like a glass or plastic structure, to improve crop yields.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT):

The mean solar time at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London, used as a reference time for the world.

Gregorian calendar: The calendar now used internationally.

Gulf: A part of the sea nearly surrounded with land.

Hailstone: A small ball of ice falling from the sky in showers.

Hamlet: A small settlement or small village.

Harass: To create an unpleasant or hostile situation.

Harmoniously: With harmony.

Harmony: The state of being without conflict or disagreement; the pleasing quality of any situation.

Healer: Someone who uses traditional practices to relieve or heal diseases.

Herd: A herd is a large group of animals; to herd is to keep or look after such a group.

Heritage: Valued objects and qualities such as historic buildings and cultural traditions that have been passed down from previous generations.

Historian: A person who studies and writes about the past.

History: The study of the human past.

Homemaker: A person who looks after a home, including housework.

House: An assembly where laws are discussed or passed.

Immense: Extremely large or great.

Implementation: The process of putting a decision or plan into effect.

Import: The purchase of goods by one country from other countries.

Indian Standard Time (IST): The official time observed throughout India, which is 5 hours and 30 minutes ahead of GMT.

Ingredient: An element of a whole; often, any of the foods or substances that are combined to make a particular dish.

Inhabitants: People who live in a particular place.

Inscriptions: Words or texts written or cut in some material such as stone or, metal.

Interdependence: The dependence of two or more people or things on each other.

International Date Line: An imaginary line on the Earth's surface located at about 180° longitude, where, by convention, one calendar day is added or subtracted when crossed.

Intimidating: Something or someone that makes you feel scared or nervous.

Intrigue: Causing interest or curiosity about something.

Invaders: A person or group that forcefully enters a country or region.

Invocation: The calling for the assistance or presence of some superior being.

Judiciously: With good judgement or sense.

Landscape: All the visible features of an area of land.

Landslide: The sudden collapse of a mass of earth or rock from a mountainside.

Lava: The molten liquid rock that flows out of a volcano, or the rock so formed once it has cooled off.

Lichen: A plant-like organism that generally clings to rocks, walls or trees.

Livestock: Farm animals regarded as an asset.

Logistics: The detailed organisation and implementation of a complex operation.

Manifest: To make evident through actions, events, or occurrences.

Manuscript: A document written by hand on some material such as bark, cloth, palm leaf or paper.

Marine: Related to or found in the oceans and seas.

Market: A place where people engage in the exchange of goods and services.

Marvel: To experience intense surprise or interest.

Meagre: Lacking in quantity or quality.

Mechanism: Part of a machine, or system of parts working together in a machine.

Meridian of longitude: An imaginary half-circle that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole on the surface of the earth and indicates how far east or west a point on the Earth's surface is from the Prime Meridian.

Metallurgy: The technique of extracting metals from nature, purifying or combining them, as well as the scientific study of metals and their properties.

Meticulous: Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise.

Middlemen: Persons who buy goods from producers and sell them to consumers at a fee.

Migrate: People moving from one place to another for some length of time.

Monetary: Relating to money or currency.

Monetary value: Value of something that can be measured in terms of money.

Money's worth: The monetary value that people place on an object based on the benefit they derive from it.

Monk: A man who leaves life in the world to become part of a community leading a life dedicated to religious or spiritual pursuits.

Montane forest: A type of forest that grows in mountainous regions.

Moss: A small green plant without flowers or true roots, often spreading in a cushion-like cover.

Motto: A short sentence or phrase chosen as the beliefs or ideals of an individual, family, or institution.

Narrative: A story or account of events, experiences, or interactions, typically presented in a structured format.

Native: A person born in a specified region or country and still lives there.

Navigate: The act of directing a ship, aircraft, etc. from one place to another, or the science of finding a way from one place to another.

Navigation: The act of navigating.

Nominal: In name only.

North Pole: The point in the Northern Hemisphere where the Earth's axis of rotation meets the Earth's surface, located at 90°N.

Nuclear family: A family consisting of parents (or a parent) and their children, but not including aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.

Numerous: Great in number; many.

Nun: The female equivalent of a monk.

Offshoot: A thing that develops from something else.

Orchard: An enclosed piece of land planted with fruit trees.

Oversee: To supervise a person or persons and their work.

Parallels of latitude: Imaginary lines on the surface of the Earth that run east to west, parallel to the Equator, and indicate how far north or south a point on the Earth's surface is from the Equator.

Paraphrase: To express the meaning of something written or spoken, but using different words, especially to achieve greater clarity or to summarise.

Pasteurisation: A process by which milk is preserved by heating it to a specific temperature to kill harmful bacteria.

Payment in kind: A non-cash payment received for the work performed.

Perceive: To be aware of something or someone.

Perceptible: That can be seen, heard, felt, tasted, smelled, or somehow noticed.

Perspective: The way you see or think about some issue.

Pigment: A substance that gives something a particular colour when it is present in it or added to it.

Pilgrim: A person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons.

Pitch in: To intervene by contributing something.

Precipitation: Water from the atmosphere reaching the ground in any form — rain, snow and hail are the most common forms of precipitation.

Precise: Marked by accuracy of expression or detail.

Prime Meridian: The meridian of longitude designated at 0°, which passes through Greenwich, England.

Proportion: A part, share, or number considered in comparison with a whole.

Prosperity: The state of being prosperous.

Prosperous: Having or bringing wealth and success.

Pulses: A category of crops that includes beans, peas, lentils (dal).

Radiate: To emit (energy, especially light or heat) in the form of rays or waves.

Regulate: To control by means of rules and regulations.

Relief: A design that stands out from the surface of a panel, which may be of stone, wood, ceramic, etc.

Renovation: Making something (such as a building) new again.

Renowned: Known or talked about by many people; famous.

Reservoir: A large natural or artificial lake used as a source of water supply.

Resilience: The capacity to meet challenges and difficulties, adapt to them or overcome them.

Resolve: To settle or find a solution to.

Retail: The sale of goods in small quantities for use by the end consumer.

Reverence: Deep respect for someone or something.

Rob: To take property unlawfully from a person or place.

Rounded off: Approximated to a simpler number.

Salary: A fixed regular payment generally paid monthly by an employer to an employee.

Scholar: A specialist in a particular branch of study.

Scorching: Very hot.

Sea level: The average level of the surface of the oceans, also called 'mean sea level'.

Sea: A large body of salty water that is smaller than an ocean and partly or completely surrounded by land.

Secondary sector: The group of activities that involves processing of raw materials derived from the primary sector into products for sale or consumption.

Seeker: A sage, yogi, philosopher or intellectual who seeks the truths of this world.

Segregation: The action or state of setting someone (or a group of people) or something apart from others.

Settlement: A place where people establish a community.

Shrine: A sacred space or place.

Source of history: A place, a person, text or an object from which we gather information about some past event or period.

South Pole: The point in the Southern Hemisphere where the Earth's axis of rotation meets the Earth's surface, located at 90°S.

Species: A group of closely related living beings that have similar characteristics and breed with each other.

Spectacular: Beautiful in a dramatic and eye-catching way.

Spiritual: Concerned with something greater than oneself, such as the spirit or soul (ātman in Sanskrit and many Indian languages).

Spirituality: The search for, or attainment of, a deeper or higher dimension beyond our current personality.

Standard Time Zone: A zone of typically 15° of longitude wide, which corresponds to one hour of time difference from the next time zone.

Statecraft: The management of state affairs.

Steep: Rising or falling sharply.

Stirring: Causing excitement or strong emotion.

Subcontinent: A large distinguishable part of a continent.

Submerge: Cause (something) to go under water.

Surge: A sudden powerful forward or upward movement, for instance by a crowd or by a natural force such as the tide.

Synthetic: Not natural; artificial.

Terrace farming: Cultivation on steps of land that are cut into mountain slopes.

Terrain: A piece or stretch of land, from the point of view of its physical features.

Terrestrial: On or relating to the earth.

Tertiary sector: The group of activities that involves the provision of services which complement both primary and secondary sectors, such as transportation, banking, etc.

Testimony: Evidence or proof of something.

Transform: To make a marked change in the form, nature, or appearance.

Transgender: Someone who is born as a person of one sex but relates more to the experiences of a person of the other sex.

Transmit: To pass on something from one person or place to another.

Tributary: A river that flows into a larger river (or lake).

Underlying: Lying or situated under something.

Underprivileged: Not enjoying the same standard of living or rights as the majority of people in a society.

Undulating: Moving with a smooth up-and-down motion.

UNESCO: This stands for 'United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization', which promotes dialogue between people and nations through education, science and culture.

Unstitched: Having no stitches; unsewn.

Upliftment: A raise in the level of something; an improvement.

Urbanisation: The process by which towns and cities are formed.

Valley: A lower area between hills or mountains, often with a river or stream flowing through it.

Variation: A different or distinct form or version of something.

Vital: Absolutely necessary; essential.

Voluntary: Acting of one's own free will.

Wage: A payment made by the employer to the worker for a specific period of time.

Warehouse: A large building used for storing products before they are sold, used or rented out.

Wealth: An abundance of valuable possessions.

Weaving: Forming cloth by interlacing threads of yarn.

Welfare: Health, prosperity and well-being.

Widespread: Found or distributed over a large area or number of people.

Worldview: A certain view or understanding of the world, its origin or workings.

Note: The definitions in this Glossary have been simplified keeping in mind the Grade and the particular context in which the words defined are used in this textbook.

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Notes: (1) "ASI" stands for Archaeological Survey of India; (2) all Internet links are as accessed in June 2024.