

# EDITORIAL WORDS

LEARNING ENGLISH & IMPROVING VOCABULARY

## WORD OF THE DAY (01-30JUN21)

1. **dovetail** (verb) – join, fit, link (together); agree, accord, match, correspond, be in agreement, go together, be consistent.  
**E.g.** As president of the G20, Italy is also trying to **dovetail** its work on climate change with the UK, which is chair of the UN Cop26 summit in Glasgow.
2. **temerity** (noun) - audacity, boldness, nerve, daring, impertinence, presumption, brazenness, rashness, cheekiness.  
**E.g.** You do have to admire tennis's position on health. The women's No 2 (Naomi Osaka) has been pushed into withdrawing from a grand slam for having the **temerity** to take a small step to protect her own mental equilibrium, while the men's No 1 (Novak Djokovic) has spent the past 14 months continually honking out anti-Covid vaccine messages.
3. **carrot-and-stick** (adjective) – relating to a method of persuasion that involves both a reward and punishment.  
**E.g.** China's apparent demographic travails (problems) were narrated as an existential threat to the country's economic and geopolitical future... Then came the suggestion from a high-profile former McKinsey consultant (Winston Mok) that the solution was to "**go all out on** pro-birth policies" by taking a "**carrot and stick**" approach,...
4. **fab** (noun) – a manufacturing plant that makes microchips/chips.  
**E.g.** The chip shortage has sent the cost of new and used cars and trucks soaring, which in turn fed a 4.2% jump in US consumer prices in April..... A simple solution would be make more chips, but the market for these components is finely tuned, and adding manufacturing capacity – known as "**fabs**" – is extremely complex, expensive and takes a long time.
5. **aberration** (noun) – anomaly, deviation, divergence, abnormality, oddity, abnormality, eccentricity.  
**E.g.** Former US Vice President Mike Pence's speech came as Georgia's education board adopted a resolution insisting that students should be taught that racism and slavery are **aberrations** rather than the systemic norm. "America is not a racist country," Pence said, prompting one of several standing ovations and cheers during his speech.

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6. **commensurate** (adjective) – equivalent, equal, corresponding, comparable, proportionate, proportional; consistent with, according to.

**E.g.** Physical presence has been the historical basis of our taxation system. This basis has to evolve with our economies gradually shifting online. Like any other company, they (big tech companies) should pay their fair share to fund the public good, at a level **commensurate** with their success.

7. **blithe** (adjective) - heedless, uncaring, careless, casual, indifferent, thoughtless, unconcerned, unworried, untroubled, irresponsible.

**E.g.** Like the crash of 2008, the pandemic has proved that economies characterised by these features are full of weaknesses. Worse still, in the period between these two events, these defects created seething (raging/furious) tensions that fed into the growth of a new rightwing politics, whose figureheads are now attempting to **slam the door on** globalisation and the movement of people, with apparently **blithe** disregard for both the human and economic consequences.

8. **beggar-my-neighbour** (adjective) – relating to a policy that seeks benefits for one country at the expense of others.

**E.g.** The principle of the agreement (by the G7 group) is that multinationals would have to pay a minimum tax rate of at least 15% in each country they operate. The agreement, which reverses several decades of **beggar-thy-neighbour** policies, is aimed at multinationals that have played countries against one another to drive down the level of tax they pay.

9. **opine** (verb) – suggest, propose, put forward, express, state (an opinion); comment, remark, posit, moot.

**E.g.** The right-wingers who condemn the players' anti-racism protest are clearly people who don't even like football... You can be quite sure the same politicians would listen to pretty much any other passing multimillionaire on any subject on which they cared to **opine**... And yet, it's only sportsmen and women who are continually urged to just shut up and play.

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10. **protean** (adjective) - relating to a person who changes his/her nature, appearance, or behavior easily and continuously; variable, changeable, volatile, unpredictable, inconstant, mercurial; versatile, adaptable, flexible, all-round, multifaceted.

**E.g.** Mr Johnson is a **protean** character and able to tailor his style to the Biden agenda... The US president is a diplomat and a bridge-builder. The two men will downplay any differences and amplify issues that bring their countries into strategic alignment – such as the Cop26 climate talks later this year in Glasgow.

11. **serendipity** (noun) – an unexpected experience prompted by an individual's valuable interaction with ideas, information, objects, or phenomena; put simply, it is the occurrence of unexpected and positive events and discoveries; happy chance, good luck, good fortune, fortuity.

**E.g.** In both libraries and bookshops, the holy grail (an elusive thing) of online discovery is not search and retrieval of items the seeker already knows, but **serendipity**... they were always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity (wisdom/insight), of things which they were not in quest of.

12. **incredulity** (noun) - disbelief, doubtfulness, lack of trust, distrust, mistrust, suspicion, cynicism, scepticism, wariness.

**E.g.** Boris Johnson is reluctant to stick to his trade deal and the EU won't make any concessions (adjustments). For the EU, **incredulity** is mixed with frustration. The incredulity comes with London's refusal to honour its word and implement what is implied by the agreement it willingly signed up to.

13. **fortitude** (noun) – strength of mind, strength of character, firmness of purpose, determination, courage, bravery, strong-mindedness, resilience, resolve, nerve.

**E.g.** Novak Djokovic will meet Stefanos Tsitsipas, who squandered (wasted) a two-set lead against Alexander Zverev before demonstrating the full scale of his mental **fortitude** by recovering from 0-40 down at the start of the fifth set to reach his first grand slam final...

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14. **resuscitate** (verb) – bring back to life from unconsciousness (or from the edge of death); revive; rescue/save, breathe new life into.  
**E.g.** Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen had a cardiac arrest and “was gone” before being swiftly **resuscitated** on the pitch, Denmark’s team doctor, Morten Boesen, revealed on Sunday... Eriksen collapsed during the first half of the Euro 2020 game (against Finland) and after receiving CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on the pitch was taken to hospital.
15. **given** (noun) – known fact/condition, established fact/situation, reality, certainty.  
**E.g.** Eurozone inequality proves economic catch-up by poorer states isn’t a **given**.
16. **impetuous** (adjective) - doing something very quickly without thinking; impulsive, reckless, rash, heedless, incautious, imprudent, unplanned, unthinking; spontaneous, precipitate.  
**E.g.** In a rare interview with US media released Friday, Putin voiced hope that Biden would be less **impetuous** than Donald Trump, who infamously sided with the Russian leader against the views of his own intelligence chiefs.
17. **audience** (noun) – a formal/official meeting, discussion or interview with an important, powerful and influential person.  
**E.g.** Biden and Putin begin talks at the highly anticipated Geneva summit. The talks have also raised concerns among Russia’s neighbours such as Ukraine, where President Volodymyr Zelenskiy sought an **audience** with Biden to argue the country’s case for Nato membership before this week’s summit. The US has **left the door open** to Ukraine’s accession (formal joining) to the alliance, but did not take meaningful steps to speed up that process.
18. **prelude** (noun) - an introduction to the main event; intro, start, beginning, curtain-raiser, overture.  
**E.g.** The Portugal captain (Cristiano Ronaldo) is a renowned health fanatic and made it clear what he thinks of the carbonated soft drink. The 36-year-old shifted the bottles of Coca-Cola away from him during a press conference in Budapest on Monday in the **prelude** to his country’s Group F game against Hungary.

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19. **one-upmanship** (noun) - the way of behaving in which a person attempts to get an advantage by appearing superior to/better than another person (a friend/opponent); boastfulness, showing off, self-promotion, attention-seeker.  
**E.g.** Russia's president has a long history of keeping world leaders hanging around, in what appears to be deliberate **one-upmanship**. Ahead of the Geneva summit senior US officials drew up a protocol under which the Russian leader would arrive first. Their concern was well founded. In 2012 Putin kept President Obama waiting for 40 minutes at a G20 summit in Los Cabos, Mexico.
20. **impunity** (noun) – exemption from punishment, freedom from punishment, immunity, indemnity, non-liability.  
**E.g.** The collapse in rape prosecutions has created a climate of **impunity**. Women are right to be furious... The (UK) government's frank admission of failure is praiseworthy. But promises to **turn over a new leaf** are never enough. Abused women and the organisations that work with them know this better than most.
21. **insouciant** (adjective) – unconcerned, unworried, untroubled, carefree, indifferent, nonchalant, lacking concern, casual, heedless, unserious.  
**E.g.** Chinese disdain for international norms is now habitual, ranging from abuses in Xinjiang to its refusal to help establish Covid-19's exact origin. The failure to apologise for last month's random, chaotic descent to Earth of debris from a Chinese rocket, which could have proven disastrous for many below, aptly symbolises the arrogant, **insouciant** exceptionalism of the Xi era.
22. **concerted** (adjective) – involving a lot of people coming together & doing something with great effort; strenuous, vigorous, energetic, determined, active, intense; coordinated, collaborative, collective, combined, joint.  
**E.g.** A realistic goal will be for communities to come together and decide cooperatively on a new, sustainable, low-impact vision for the future that would undoubtedly include more robust healthcare, emergency and basic support systems. In a survey, around two thirds of Europeans said they did not want to return to pre-pandemic levels of air pollution. That dream will become a reality only with a **concerted** effort.

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23. **blasé** (adjective) - indifferent to, unconcerned about, uncaring about, casual about, uninterested in, uninvolved in, unresponsive to, unenthusiastic about.

**E.g.** It must be accepted, to go back to the debate Charles Booth had with the Social Democratic Federation that it is “abject poverty” we are talking about; almost a sub-human level of existence of the majority of fellow Indians we cannot continue to be **blasé** about. Counting them would be a much-needed start to convey that each life matters.

24. **ostensibly** (adverb) - in a way that something appears or is officially stated to be true/real, but it might not be; apparently, seemingly, allegedly, professedly, supposedly, purportedly.

**E.g.** The clear political object (purpose) behind the invocation (citation) of the law is to create an atmosphere of fear. This, in a way, is the price which the country had to pay for the retention of the law of sedition, among other draconian (harsh & severe) laws. Therefore, the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts should **take** suo motu **cognisance of** the incidents where the state **ostensibly** uses draconian laws to suppress criticism and protest.

25. **emancipate** (verb) – free from restriction/restraint; liberate from domination/control; give rights to; set free, release, unfetter, unshackle.

**E.g.** The gender technology gap has to end... There is no need to **reinvent the wheel**. In the 1950s, dishwashers and washing machines were promoted as a method of **emancipating** women. Household goods producers, for example, target most of their advertising at women because they often control the household budget. Digital technology could be approached similarly.

26. **hobnob** (verb) - mix, blend, mingle, combine, merge, socialize (particularly with higher-status people in a society).

**E.g.** When lockdowns began to lift, this spring and last, some companies noticed a phenomenon of people coming into the office even when they weren't obliged to, seeing it as a chance to **hobnob** with senior managers (often the only people still at their desks) and **get one over on** rivals still stuck obediently at home.

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27. **acclimatise** (verb) - adjust, adapt, attune, accommodate, get accustomed, get used (to new conditions).  
**E.g.** Just ask the founders of Zoom. Only two years ago, we were all thinking that it would take at least another decade before video-conferencing became an integral part of the way we work in organisations. Then along comes Covid and in three weeks we're all happily Zooming... And now we're more or less **acclimatised** or, at any rate, resigned (accepted with unease) to the idea that remote meetings might **be here to stay**.
28. **fall back on** (phrasal verb) – resort to, turn to, have recourse to, make use of, use; rely on, depend on.  
**E.g.** Free lunch is entry-level when it comes to corporate perks, a trusted staple many businesses have **fallen back on** as a means of convincing workers to resume their pre-pandemic working habits and arduous commutes.
29. **balloon** (verb) - increase rapidly; rise, surge, soar, shoot up, escalate.  
**E.g.** India is right now going through its worst economic crisis. The highest-ever contraction in the economy took place last year, unemployment has risen, incomes for growing numbers are falling, bank non-performing assets (NPAs) may be **ballooning**, and the fiscal deficit is rising. In these circumstances, it would be prudent to think through the pros and cons of the aggressive privatisation of public enterprises that **is on the anvil**.
30. **trove** (noun) - a collection of valuable things.  
**E.g.** Although the police and the courts have crushed protest and opposition movements in Russia, the government has been unable to **get a handle on** the **troves** of Russian data that have been leaked and sold on an expansive black market.

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