

SSC CGL 2025 Tier 1 Synonyms, Antonyms & Idioms

A complete, exam-ready reference of high-frequency vocabulary and idioms with meanings, synonyms and antonyms — curated for SSC CGL Tier 1 aspirants.

105

VOCABULARY WORDS

66

IDIOMS & PHRASES

1

HOMONYM FOCUS

By SscAce Editorial Team

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SSC CGL Tier 1 Vocabulary & Idioms Handbook

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This handbook compiles the synonyms, antonyms, one important homonym, and idioms most frequently tested in the SSC CGL Tier 1 English section. Each entry includes a clear meaning so you can learn the word in context rather than memorising it in isolation. Bookmark <https://sscace.com> for more free SSC CGL study material.

1. Synonyms & Antonyms

WORD	MEANING	SYNONYMS	ANTONYMS
Perfidious	Deceitful and untrustworthy; disloyal	Treacherous, Faithless	Loyal, Faithful
Treacherous	Guilty of betrayal; dangerously unreliable	Perfidious, Disloyal	Loyal, Trustworthy
Loyal	Giving firm and constant support to someone	Faithful, Devoted	Disloyal, Treacherous
Abnegate	To renounce or give up (a right or belief)	Renounce, Relinquish	Indulge, Embrace
Puissant	Having great power or influence; mighty	Powerful, Mighty	Weak, Powerless
Nebulous	Unclear, vague or ill-defined	Vague, Hazy	Clear, Distinct
Erudite	Having or showing great knowledge or learning	Scholarly, Learned	Ignorant, Uneducated
Encomium	A speech or piece of writing that praises highly	Eulogy, Tribute	Criticism, Condemnation
Caustic	Sarcastic in a bitter and hurtful way; corrosive	Scathing, Corrosive	Kind, Gentle
Evanescent	Quickly fading or disappearing	Fleeting, Transient	Permanent, Everlasting
Bibliophile	A person who loves and collects books	Book-lover, Bookworm	Bibliophobe
Lachrymose	Tearful; given to weeping	Tearful, Weepy	Cheerful, Joyful
Deleterious	Causing harm or damage	Harmful, Injurious	Beneficial, Harmless
Cacophony	A harsh, discordant mixture of sounds	Dissonance, Din	Harmony, Euphony
Subterfuge	Deceit used to achieve one's goal	Deception, Trickery	Honesty, Openness
Juvenile	Young; childish, immature	Youthful, Immature	Adult, Mature

WORD	MEANING	SYNONYMS	ANTONYMS
Extirpate	To root out and destroy completely	Eradicate, Eliminate	Establish, Implant
Callow	Inexperienced and immature	Immature, Green	Mature, Experienced
Placatory	Intended to placate or appease	Conciliatory, Appeasing	Provocative, Inflammatory
Fulsome	Excessive or insincere, especially of praise	Excessive, Effusive	Modest, Restrained
Apogee	The highest point; the climax	Peak, Zenith	Perigee, Nadir
Mendacious	Not telling the truth; lying	Deceitful, Dishonest	Truthful, Honest
Nonchalant	Calm and relaxed; unconcerned	Indifferent, Casual	Anxious, Concerned
Quixotic	Extremely idealistic and unrealistic	Idealistic, Impractical	Realistic, Practical
Implacable	Unable to be appeased or pacified	Relentless, Unyielding	Forgiving, Lenient
Obsequious	Excessively obedient or attentive; servile	Servile, Fawning	Assertive, Domineering
Soporific	Tending to induce sleep; dull	Sleep-inducing, Tedious	Invigorating, Stimulating
Propitious	Giving a good chance of success; favourable	Favourable, Auspicious	Unfavourable, Inauspicious
Oppugn	To call into question; to dispute	Challenge, Dispute	Support, Endorse
Illuminate	To light up; to make clear	Light up, Clarify	Darken, Obscure
Demur	To raise objections; show reluctance	Object, Protest	Agree, Consent
Zany	Amusingly unconventional and idiosyncratic	Eccentric, Wacky	Conventional, Normal
Garrulous	Excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters	Talkative, Voluble	Reticent, Taciturn
Incessant	Continuing without pause or interruption	Constant, Unceasing	Occasional, Intermittent
Piquant	Pleasantly sharp or spicy; stimulating	Spicy, Zesty	Bland, Tasteless

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WORD	MEANING	SYNONYMS	ANTONYMS
Intransigent	Unwilling to change one's views or agree	Uncompromising, Stubborn	Flexible, Accommodating
Pulchritude	Physical beauty	Beauty, Comeliness	Ugliness, Homeliness
Incorrigible	Not able to be corrected or reformed	Irredeemable, Hopeless	Reformable, Curable
Luminous	Giving off light; bright	Bright, Radiant	Dark, Dull
Exiguous	Very small in size or amount; scanty	Scanty, Meagre	Abundant, Ample
Abrogate	To repeal or abolish formally (a law, right)	Repeal, Annul	Establish, Enact
Haphazard	Lacking order or planning; random	Random, Disorganised	Systematic, Methodical
Reverence	Deep respect for someone or something	Respect, Veneration	Contempt, Disrespect
Incandescent	Emitting light as a result of heat; brilliant	Glowing, Radiant	Dull, Dark
Rebellious	Resisting authority or control	Defiant, Insubordinate	Obedient, Compliant
Eulogy	A speech praising someone highly, often after death	Tribute, Encomium	Criticism, Denunciation
Turpitude	Depraved or wicked behaviour	Depravity, Wickedness	Virtue, Righteousness
Cogent	Clear, logical and convincing	Persuasive, Convincing	Unconvincing, Weak
Lassitude	A state of physical or mental weariness	Fatigue, Lethargy	Vigour, Energy
Invective	Harsh, abusive language	Abuse, Vituperation	Praise, Compliment
Ebullient	Cheerful and full of energy	Enthusiastic, Exuberant	Gloomy, Apathetic
Sagacious	Having or showing good judgment; wise	Wise, Shrewd	Foolish, Unwise
Complaisant	Willing to please others; obliging	Obliging, Accommodating	Obstinate, Disobliging
Opprobrium	Harsh criticism or public disgrace	Disgrace, Condemnation	Honour, Praise
Felicitous	Well-chosen or apt; pleasant	Apt, Fitting	Inappropriate, Unfortunate
Dilatory	Slow to act; intended to cause delay	Slow, Delaying	Prompt, Timely
Refulgent	Shining brightly; radiant	Radiant, Brilliant	Dull, Dim
Circumspect	Wary and careful; cautious	Cautious, Prudent	Careless, Reckless

WORD	MEANING	SYNONYMS	ANTONYMS
Obdurate	Stubbornly refusing to change one's views	Stubborn, Inflexible	Flexible, Yielding
Cadaverous	Resembling a corpse; pale and gaunt	Pallid, Gaunt	Healthy, Robust
Coruscate	To flash or sparkle with light	Sparkle, Glitter	Dim, Dull
Pusillanimous	Lacking courage; cowardly	Cowardly, Timid	Brave, Courageous
Obfuscation	The act of making something unclear or confusing	Confusion, Obscuring	Clarification, Elucidation
Vociferous	Loud and forceful in expressing one's opinions	Loud, Clamorous	Quiet, Silent
Chicanery	The use of trickery to achieve a goal	Deception, Trickery	Honesty, Fairness
Furtive	Secretive and sly; done stealthily	Secretive, Sneaky	Open, Forthright
Perspicuous	Clearly expressed and easy to understand	Clear, Lucid	Unclear, Confusing
Grumpy	Bad-tempered and irritable	Irritable, Cranky	Cheerful, Pleasant
Transitory	Not permanent; lasting only for a short time	Temporary, Fleeting	Permanent, Lasting
Trenchant	Vigorous or incisive in expression	Incisive, Sharp	Feeble, Vague

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WORD	MEANING	SYNONYMS	ANTONYMS
Nugatory	Of no value; futile	Worthless, Futile	Valuable, Useful
Condemn	To express strong disapproval of; to sentence	Denounce, Censure	Praise, Vindicate
Vindicate	To clear someone of blame; to justify	Exonerate, Justify	Condemn, Incriminate
Sentient	Able to perceive or feel things	Conscious, Feeling	Insensate, Unfeeling
Dissemble	To conceal one's true feelings or motives	Pretend, Feign	Reveal, Disclose
Upbraid	To criticise or scold severely	Scold, Reprimand	Praise, Commend
Impecunious	Having little or no money	Penniless, Poor	Wealthy, Affluent
Ostentatious	Showy and designed to impress others	Showy, Flashy	Modest, Understated
Ephemeral	Lasting for a very short time	Fleeting, Transient	Permanent, Everlasting

WORD	MEANING	SYNONYMS	ANTONYMS
Irrepressible	Unable to be controlled or restrained	Unstoppable, Uncontainable	Restrainable, Controllable
Redolent	Strongly reminiscent or suggestive of; fragrant	Evocative, Fragrant	Odourless, Unrelated
Awry	Not going as planned; askew	Amiss, Askew	Correct, Straight
Lugubrious	Looking or sounding sad and dismal	Mournful, Gloomy	Cheerful, Joyful
Asperity	Harshness of tone or manner	Harshness, Sharpness	Gentleness, Mildness
Pernicious	Having a harmful effect, especially gradually	Harmful, Destructive	Beneficial, Harmless
Incipient	In an early stage; just beginning	Beginning, Emerging	Mature, Developed
Truncated	Shortened by having a part cut off	Shortened, Curtailed	Extended, Elongated
Pulverize	To crush or grind into fine particles	Crush, Grind	Build, Assemble
Festivity	Joyful celebration; a festive activity	Celebration, Merrymaking	Mourning, Gloom
Recalcitrance	Stubborn resistance to authority or guidance	Defiance, Obstinacy	Compliance, Obedience
Exhilaration	A feeling of great excitement and happiness	Excitement, Elation	Depression, Gloom
Palliate	To make a problem less severe without solving it	Alleviate, Ease	Aggravate, Worsen
Anachronistic	Belonging to a period other than the one portrayed; outdated	Outdated, Obsolete	Modern, Current
Prosaic	Lacking imagination; dull and ordinary	Dull, Mundane	Poetic, Imaginative
Phlegmatic	Having an unemotional, calm temperament	Calm, Unexcitable	Excitable, Passionate
Torpor	A state of physical or mental inactivity; sluggishness	Lethargy, Sluggishness	Vigour, Liveliness
Conflagration	An extensive fire that destroys a great deal	Blaze, Inferno	Extinguishment
Pensive	Engaged in deep, often melancholy, thought	Thoughtful, Reflective	Carefree, Unthinking
Esoteric	Understood by only a small, specialised group	Obscure, Arcane	Common, Well-known
Quell	To put an end to; to suppress	Suppress, Subdue	Incite, Provoke
Schizotypal	Relating to a personality marked by eccentric thinking/behaviour	Eccentric, Odd	Conventional, Normal
Cavil	To raise trivial objections; to quibble	Quibble, Carp	Praise, Approve

WORD	MEANING	SYNONYMS	ANTONYMS
Munificent	Extremely generous	Generous, Lavish	Stingy, Miserly
Assiduous	Showing great care, effort and perseverance	Diligent, Industrious	Lazy, Careless
Voluble	Talking fluently, readily and at length	Talkative, Garrulous	Reticent, Taciturn

2. Homonym Watch

Introit

(noun) An entrance; specifically, a psalm or hymn sung/played at the beginning of a church service.
Pronounced IN-troh-it.

It is often confused with similar-sounding words in SSC homonym sets — be careful not to mix it up with 'Introvert' (a shy, reserved person) which has a completely different meaning.

KEEP PRACTISING

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3. Idioms & Phrases

Idioms are a high-scoring, low-negative-marking-risk area if practised well. Read each phrase aloud with its meaning and try using it in a sentence of your own.

- Hobson's Choice** — A choice in which there is no real alternative — take it or leave it.
- Move Heaven and Earth** — To make every possible effort to achieve something.
- Fly off the Handle** — To lose one's temper suddenly.
- Make No Bones About It** — To speak frankly and without hesitation.
- Has Two Strings to His Bow** — To have more than one plan or resource to fall back on.
- Show the White Feather** — To display cowardice.
- Bury the Hatchet** — To end a quarrel and make peace.
- Blow Hot and Cold** — To keep changing one's opinion or attitude about something.
- Throw Cold Water On** — To discourage or dampen enthusiasm for a plan or idea.

10. **Keep at Bay** — To prevent someone or something from approaching or causing harm.
11. **Tooth and Nail** — Fighting with all possible effort and ferocity.
12. **Steal a March On** — To gain an advantage over someone by acting before they do.
13. **Fiddle While Rome Burns** — To occupy oneself with trivial matters while ignoring a serious crisis.
14. **Eat Humble Pie** — To admit one's fault and apologise humbly.
15. **Carry Coals to Newcastle** — To do something entirely unnecessary or redundant.
16. **Toe the Line** — To conform to a rule or accepted standard.
17. **To Chew the Cud of Reflection** — To think over something slowly and carefully.
18. **To Cry Stinking Fish** — To disparage or run down one's own efforts or belongings.
19. **Won His Laurels** — Achieved fame or honour through one's own efforts.
20. **Came of Age** — Reached maturity or adulthood.
21. **Gall and Wormwood** — A source of bitter feeling or resentment.
22. **The Sword of Damocles** — An imminent, ever-present sense of danger or threat.
23. **Keeps a Good Table** — Habitually provides excellent food and hospitality.
24. **Hoist with One's Own Petard** — To be caught or harmed by one's own scheme meant to harm others.
25. **Hand and Glove** — In very close association or cooperation with someone.
26. **Currying Favour** — Trying to gain approval or advantage through flattery.
27. **Chapter and Verse** — Precise details or exact references for a statement.
28. **Flash in the Pan** — A sudden brief success that is not repeated or sustained.
29. **To Bite One's Thumb at Someone** — To show open contempt or insult towards someone.
30. **Whistle in the Dark** — To try to appear brave or confident while actually being afraid.
31. **Sound and Fury** — A great deal of noise or commotion signifying very little.
32. **Yeoman Service** — Excellent and dependable help or service.
33. **Coals of Fire Upon His Head** — To make someone feel remorse by responding to their wrong with kindness.
34. **Eat Crow** — To admit that one was wrong; to suffer humiliation.
35. **To Draw the Long Bow** — To exaggerate greatly.
36. **Mad as a Hatter** — Completely crazy or eccentric.
37. **By the Skin of One's Teeth** — By a very narrow margin; barely.

38. **Throw One's Hat into the Ring** — To announce one's candidacy or enter a competition.
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39. **To Be in High Dudgeon** — To be in a state of indignation or anger.
-
40. **Cook Someone's Goose** — To ruin someone's plans or chances of success.
-
41. **To Sup with the Devil** — To deal with a dangerous or unscrupulous person, requiring great caution.
-
42. **Hang Fire** — To delay or hold back from taking action.
-
43. **To Play the Second Fiddle** — To take a subordinate role to someone else.
-
44. **Play Gooseberry** — To be an unwanted third person in the company of a couple.
-
45. **Cut Me Dead** — To ignore someone completely and deliberately.
-
46. **Break One's Duck** — To achieve one's first success at something.
-
47. **Know Which Way the Wind Blows** — To understand the general trend or direction of events.
-
48. **Cut the Gordian Knot** — To solve a complex problem in a decisive, bold way.
-
49. **At Sea** — Confused; not knowing what to do.
-
50. **Harp on the Same String** — To keep repeating the same point again and again.
-
51. **The Writing on the Wall** — A clear sign that something bad is going to happen.
-
52. **Jump the Shark** — To reach a point of decline after which something is no longer worthwhile.
-
53. **Not in My Line** — Not within one's area of interest or skill.
-
54. **Throw One's Cap Over the Windmill** — To abandon caution and act recklessly in pursuit of something.
-
55. **Go for a Song** — To be sold for a very low price.
-
56. **Not to Mince Matters** — To speak plainly and bluntly, without softening one's words.
-
57. **Red Herring** — Something that misleads or distracts from the real issue.
-
58. **Kicked Up a Row** — Caused a noisy disturbance or argument.
-
59. **Sitting on the Fence** — Remaining neutral or undecided on an issue.
-
60. **Make a Clean Breast of It** — To confess something fully and openly.
-
61. **Rising to the Occasion** — Performing well under pressure when it matters most.
-
62. **Back to the Drawing Board** — Starting a plan or project over again from the beginning.
-
63. **Nip in the Bud** — To stop something at an early stage before it can develop.
-
64. **To Send to Coventry** — To deliberately ostracise or refuse to associate with someone.
-
65. **Not Fit to Hold a Candle To** — Vastly inferior in comparison to someone or something.
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66. Birds of a Feather Flock Together — People with similar interests or character tend to associate with each other.

Pro Topper Tip: Maintain a separate vocabulary notebook. Revise 15–20 words and 5 idioms daily instead of cramming the whole list at once — spaced repetition is far more effective for retention in Tier 1 English.

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