

English Words of Sanskrit Origin

Avocabo Wordlist 78

ARYAN, AUBERGINE, AVATAR, BUDDHA, CRIMSON, DINGHY, GHEE, GURU, JUTE, KARMA, MANTRA, MUGGER, NIRVANA, OPAL, PUNDIT, RAITA, SAPPHIRE, SARI, SUTRA, SWAMI, SWASTIKA, THUG, YOGA, YOGI, ZEN

Sanskrit is the classical language of Indian and the liturgical language of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. The name Sanskrit means “refined”, “consecrated” and “sanctified”. It has always been regarded as the ‘high’ language and is used mainly for religious and scientific discourse.

Today Sanskrit is used mainly in Hindu religious rituals as a ceremonial language for hymns and mantras. Efforts are also being made to revive Sanskrit as an everyday spoken language in the village of Mattur near Shimoga in Karnataka. A modern form of Sanskrit is one of the 17 official home languages in India.

(Ager, S. (2012). Sanskrit. Retrieved from <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/sanskrit.htm>)

Exercise 78-1: Definitions: Fill in the Blanks

Provide the best list word above that matches each definition.
(25 marks)

1. _____ n. a small boat for recreation or racing, esp. an open boat with a mast and sails
2. _____ n. clarified butter made from the milk of a buffalo or cow, used in Indian cooking
3. _____ n. a movable icon representing a person in cyberspace or virtual reality graphics
4. _____ adj. of a rich deep red color inclining to purple
5. _____ n. a person who has attained full enlightenment
6. _____ adj. a member of a people speaking an Indo-European language who invaded northern India in the 2nd millennium BC
7. _____ n./adj. an eggplant or, a dark purple color like that of an eggplant
8. _____ n. an Indian side dish of yogurt containing chopped cucumber or other vegetables, and spices
9. _____ n. a spiritual teacher, esp. one who imparts initiation
10. _____ n. a word or sound repeated to aid concentration in meditation
11. _____ n. a gemstone consisting of hydrated silica, typically semitransparent and showing varying colors against a pale or dark ground



Lord Ganesha

12. _____ *n. a garment consisting of a length of cotton or silk elaborately draped around the body, traditionally worn by women from the Indian subcontinent*
13. _____ *n. a person who is proficient in yoga*
14. _____ *n. a transparent precious stone, typically blue, which is a variety of corundum (aluminum oxide)*
15. _____ *n. a Japanese school of Mahayana Buddhism emphasizing the value of meditation and intuition*
16. _____ *n. a large short-snouted Indian crocodile, venerated by many Hindus*
17. _____ *n. rough fiber made from the stems of a tropical Old World plant, used for making twine and rope or woven into sackings or matting*
18. _____ *n. a transcendent state in which there is neither suffering, desire, nor sense of self, and the subject is released from the effects of karma and samsara*
19. _____ *n. the sum of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future existences*
20. _____ *n. a rule or aphorism in Sanskrit literature, or a set of these on a technical subject*
21. _____ *n. a scoundrel*
22. _____ *n. a Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline, a part of which, including breath control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures, is widely practiced for health and relaxation*
23. _____ (n.) a figure associated with well-being and luck; the emblem of the German Nazi Party
24. _____ (n.) an expert in a particular subject or field who is frequently called on to give opinions about it to the public
25. _____ (n.) a Hindu male religious teacher

Exercise 78-2: Fill in the blanks Complete each sentence with the most appropriate word from those in the word list. Write your choice in the space provided. (25 Marks)

1. There will be two _____ classes a day, with both teachers on hand at most classes.
2. What you are looking at could be the tool that elevates you from magician to mind-reading _____.
3. The bosses used hired _____ to kill 11 miners, in an action, which was hardly reported in the national media.
4. This ring consists of an unusual princess cut _____ of a lovely rich blue color.
5. The _____ experience of nature costs very little to enjoy.
6. _____ crocodiles are often found on the unspoiled river, as they wait for their next meal.
7. On the beaches, they had to use their motorized _____ to bring the troops out.
8. Hurry while stocks last offer ends August 31st the favored mat of the ancient _____ was the skin of the tiger!
9. The adult women would be making _____ from the milk and preparing food.
10. Apart from the books printed with wooden plates, there were many hand-painted and embroidered books or Buddhist _____ woven with silk.
11. Many children had drawn _____ on their books and had pictures and videos of Hitler on their phones.
12. During that short period, he heard the _____ explaining the nature of God.
13. The manufacture of a(n) _____ will involve the death of approximately 50,000 silk moths.
14. I have recited the _____ for one whole year.

15. Serve with dhal, flatbread and possibly a(n) _____ made with grated cucumber stirred into thick yogurt.

16. And now, you can have _____ in your jewelry collection on necklaces, earrings, and even charms.

17. Reaching the _____ of running the two most popular desktop operating systems on one machine is a lot harder than you might expect.

18. At no stage of a human life within society can bad _____ be avoided.

19. The _____ came to India and invaded all the land.

20. The secondary backing on all anchor carpets is natural woven _____.

21. The medal's ribbon was plain _____ until 1917 when white stripes were added to both edges.

22. The Chinese influence is still prevalent with various _____ and Japanese wood figures positioned around the room.

23. These animated _____ move and react to player's inputs within an online virtual environment.

24. I had a dish my doctor says I should eat frequently, grilled _____ stuffed with tomatoes.

25. In designing web usability: the practice of simplicity, renowned web usability _____ Jakob Nielsen shares his insightful thoughts on the subject.

Exercise 78-3: Synonyms *From the three choices, circle the one that is closest in meaning to the list word (in bold face) in the context shown. (10 Marks)*

1. the wise **pundit** taught each of his students one on one
(a) priest (b) coach (c) doctor

2. the purple **aubergine** sat as an ornament on the table
(a) flower (b) eggplant (c) cat

3. the **dinghy** floated in the harsh waves of the ocean
(a) boat (b) fish (c) life jacket

4. the women spent hours making **ghee** from scratch
(a) bread (b) baked potato (c) butter

5. for her 50th anniversary her husband bought her a beautiful **sapphire** necklace
(a) blue stone (b) gold (c) diamond

6. **raita** is a healthy side dish that accompanies many Indian meals
(a) fruits (b) whole wheat (c) yogurt

7. the elderly women knitted a **crimson** colored sweater for her granddaughter
(a) baby pink (b) deep green (c) deep red

8. the **guru** spent time going over basic practices with his students
(a) piano teacher (b) sports coach (c) spiritual teacher

9. the **thug** killed many innocent citizens with his bare hands
(a) monster (b) scoundrel (c) spy

10. the little girl's **karma** could not be avoided under any circumstances
(a) fear (b) fate (c) nightmare

Exercise 78-4 Making Connections *In a few sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. (5 x 2 Marks)*

1. **Crimson** **Blood**

2. **Mugger** **Alligator**

3. **Karma** **Fate**

4. Buddha Good Luck 4)

5. Swastika Holocaust 5)

Exercise 78-5 More Words Derived From Sanskrit

Below you will find even more words that have migrated from Sanskrit to English usage. Highlight all of the words that are familiar to you. Look up and define any 5 words that are not familiar to you. (5 Marks)

- AFGHANISTAN, AMRITA, ASHRAM, BANDANA,
- BASMATI, BRAHMIN, CHEETAH, COT, DHAL, DHOTI,
- GAVIAL, HIMALAYA, HINDI, JUNGLE, KRAIT, LOOT,
- MAHARAJAH, MANDARIN, NAMASTE, NEEM,
- ORANGE, RICE, RUPEE, RYE, SAMBAR, SANDAL,
- SHAMPOO, SHAWL, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, SUGAR,
- SUNN, TOON, TOPE

1)

2)

3)



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