1. [pedestrian](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/pedestrian)

a person who travels by foot

*I’d never seen such an endless flood of vehicles and****pedestrians****.*

1. [rickshaw](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/rickshaw)

a small two-wheeled cart for one passenger

*Holding you close, I stepped into the gap between a three-wheeled****rickshaw****and a motorbike.*

1. [ford](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/ford)

cross a river where it's shallow

*A great white cow was****fording****through the river of traffic, vehicles parting to let it through.*

1. [sari](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/sari)

a draped dress worn primarily by Hindu women

*Towels, underwear, and faded****saris****flapped on clotheslines hung across the balconies.*

1. [rickety](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/rickety)

inclined to shake as from weakness or defect

*Turning the corner, we found ourselves on an even narrower street, lined with shacks selling food. In one of them, a man stood behind a****rickety****counter.*

1. [tumbler](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/tumbler)

a glass with a flat bottom but no handle or stem

*You watched, fascinated, as he poured steaming tea from one glass****tumbler****into another, until a layer of froth bubbled across the rim.*

1. [sulky](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/sulky)

sullen or moody

*“Owwa,” you echoed****sulkily****.*

1. [incense](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/incense)

a substance that produces a fragrant odor when burned

*Though it was clear that the Goddess hadn’t yet showered the teashop couple with riches, she was well looked after: a fresh jasmine garland was tucked across the picture, and a lighted****incense****stick was placed beneath it.*

1. [billow](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/billow)

rise up as if in waves

*Smoke****billowed****up from the hot oil, and Teashop Aunty turned back to the stove.*

1. [tender](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/tender)

having or displaying warmth or affection

*At the sound of my voice, the puppy thumped its tail. You stroked it****tenderly****, with just one finger.*

1. [beckon](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/beckon)

summon with a wave, nod, or some other gesture

*“Come.” You stood and****beckoned****to the puppy. “Come, Kutti.”*

1. [secluded](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/secluded)

hidden from general view or use

*We headed to the deserted bridge. Concrete lions stood on either side of what must have once been the grand entrance, and a crumbling concrete wall ran along its sides. The perfect spot to stay overnight, I decided. Probably the most****secluded****spot we could get in this city.*

1. [makeshift](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/makeshift)

done or made using whatever is available

*Halfway across the bridge, I saw a****makeshift****shelter.*

1. [tarpaulin](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/tarpaulin)

waterproofed canvas

*Someone had made a tent with a****tarpaulin****.*

1. [matted](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/matted)

tangled in a dense mass

*It was beginning to get dark, but I could make out a boy marching up the bridge. He reminded me of a sunflower.****Matted****hair that looked like it had never met a comb stuck out like petals around a face that seemed much too large for his skinny body.*

1. [tentatively](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/tentatively)

in a hesitant manner

*He patted Kutti****tentatively****.*

1. [spare](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/spare)

give up what is not strictly needed

*“We have no money to****spare****, Rukku.”*