

WORD WORK #5

- Please note you can click on the words for additional information. This also includes more example sentences.

1. stern

of a strict bearing or demeanor; forbidding in aspect

*Crinkly lines softened her **stern** face. "I don't like giving up," she said.*

2. snub

unusually short

*You always felt like a younger sister, Rukku. You looked younger, too, with your wide eyes and **snub** nose.*

3. halting

proceeding in a fragmentary, hesitant, or ineffective way

*You spoke **haltingly**, and you hunched your shoulders, which made you seem smaller than me, though you were born a year before.*

4. elope

run away secretly with one's beloved

*They were ashamed, she told me, ashamed and angry with her for **eloping** with someone from an even lower caste than the one she'd been born into.*

5. caste

a hereditary social class among Hindus

*They were ashamed, she told me, ashamed and angry with her for eloping with someone from an even lower **caste** than the one she'd been born into.*

6. waft

be driven or carried along, as by the air

*I inhaled the sweet scent of milk rice that **wafted** through our apartment.*

7. bangle

jewelry worn around the wrist for decoration

*He ripped open one of the packages and dangled a pair of **bangles** in front of you. But before your fingers could close over them, he jerked them away.*

8. taut

pulled or drawn tight

*"How bad both our girls are at catching!" Amma's voice was high-pitched and tense as a **taut** string.*

9. serene

not agitated

*She gazed at the pictures of the Gods and Goddesses smiling down **serenely** from our kitchen wall. As if they'd suddenly leap into life and start helping.*

10. placidly

in a quiet and tranquil manner

*In front of the bus stop sign, a woman was already waiting, chewing tobacco as **placidly** as a cow chewing its cud.*

11. rove

move about aimlessly or without any destination

*“Aamaam,” she confirmed. Her eyes **roved** across my face, which was smarting with pain, and then settled on your cut lip, but she didn’t comment.*

12. shrill

having or emitting a high-pitched and sharp tone or tones

*I’d never have caught up to that bus if it hadn’t been for the conductor’s **shrill** whistle, calling the driver to a stop.*

13. fare

the sum charged for riding in a public conveyance

*My hand was shaking as I opened the drawstring purse at my waist, partly because I was nervous, partly from shock at how high the **fare** was.*

14. rummage

search haphazardly

*“Marapachi?” You **rummaged** in your bag, pulled out your wooden doll, and talked to her for a while. Then you stuck her back in your bag and slumped against my shoulder.*

15. vise

a holding device attached to a workbench

*"Come with me." His hand came down on my arm and formed a **vise**.*

16. pedestrian

a person who travels by foot

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