

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. stream (noun) – a continuous flow of something (data, information, etc); series, string, chain.
2. The Academy Awards/Oscars (noun) – The Academy Awards/Oscars are the annual awards for artistic and technical achievement in the film industry. They are regarded as the most famous and prestigious awards in the entertainment industry around the world. Given annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).
3. continuity (noun) – interconnectedness, connection, linkage, cohesion, coherence.
4. predictability (noun) – certainty, foregone conclusion, sure thing, sameness, repetition, monotony.
5. sweep (noun) – a particular case/example of winning everything (e.g award).
6. parasite (noun) – it is a 2019 South Korean black/dark comedy thriller film. (Black/dark comedy is a comedic style that makes fun out of ordinarily taboo (objectionable topics and events) subjects).
7. peddle (verb) – advocate, promote, recommend, champion.
8. myth (noun) – misconception, fallacy, false notion, misbelief.
9. lightning never strikes the same place twice (phrase) – used to express that a very unusual event is not likely to happen again to the same person or in the same place. (e.g. winning a game of chance like the lottery).
10. kind of (phrase) – rather, to some extent, somewhat, fairly.
11. granny (noun) – grandmother, grandma.
12. heart-warming (adjective) – moving, touching, soul-stirring, uplifting, encouraging, pleasing.
13. beat off (phrasal verb) – defeat, win, beat, overcome.
14. haired (adjective) – having a particular kind of hair(style).
15. turn in (phrasal verb) – provide a particular quality performance.
16. incendiary (adjective) – inflammatory, provocative, agitational, arousing, controversial.
17. mercurial (adjective) – volatile, unpredictable, erratic, impulsive.
18. trumpeter (noun) – someone who plays the trumpet.
19. woman of colour (noun) – any woman who is not European American or white.
20. elegiac (adjective) – mournful, sorrowful, sad.

21. **look at** (verb) – examine, analyse, appraise.
22. **privilege** (verb) – right, advantage, birthright, prerogative, entitlement; honour, source of pleasure, source of pride.
23. **drop off the grid** (phrase) – it means that something is not attracting a lot of attention anymore.
24. **wandering** (adjective) – roaming, travelling (purposelessly from place to place).
25. **hulking** (adjective) – large, mammoth, mighty.
26. **enlighten** (verb) – socialize, humanize, civilize; improve, better; instruct/advise, edify/illuminate.
27. **suspicion** (noun) – misgiving, doubt/qualm, distrust, scepticism.
28. **pandemic** (noun) – the worldwide spread of a new disease; The illness spreads around the world and typically affects a large number of people across a wide area.
29. **lockdown** (noun) – an emergency protocol implemented by the authorities that prevents people from leaving from a place; An extended state of confinement/encirclement/isolation of a person by the authority.
30. **relax** (noun) – make less strict, ease, loosen, lessen.
31. **streaming** (noun/adjective) – a process of transmitting or receiving (data, especially video and audio material) over the internet.
32. **make the cut** (phrase) – equal or better the (standard) score to avoid elimination.
33. **cinematography** (noun) – the art of photography and visual storytelling in a motion picture.
34. **stream** (verb) – transmit or receive (data, especially video and audio material) over the internet.
35. **gem** (noun) – best, finest, outstanding thing.
36. **marry** (verb) – combine/join together.
37. **burning** (adjective) – controversial, crucial, pressing, compelling.
38. **be caught in a time loop/warp** (phrase) – to be old-fashioned and remain unchanged from a time in the past.
39. **get back to** (phrasal verb) – come back to.
40. **bring alive** (phrase) – if something brings alive, it makes something else seem more interesting, lively, or realistic.
41. **brutality** (noun) – cruelty, barbarity, inhumanity.
42. **at home** (phrase) – in one's own country.
43. **wake up** (phrasal verb) – get up, come alive.

44. **blursday** (noun) – any day of the week that looks not much different from the one before and a person cannot distinguish one day from the next.
45. **pass by** (phrasal verb) – move past (without being noticed/experienced by someone).
46. **distinguish** (verb) – differentiate, separate, set apart, make different.
47. **hideous** (adjective) – very unpleasant, horrific, terrible, appalling, awful.
48. **stand out** (phrasal verb) – be noticeable, be visible, be obvious.
49. **dread** (noun) – fear, fearfulness, apprehension, anxiety, worry, concern, disquiet, uneasiness, angst.
50. **grateful** (adjective) – thankful.

A stream of awards: On Oscars 2021

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Oscars this year saw many firsts, and also a fair amount of continuity and predictability

After last year's Oscar sweep by *Parasite*, there were those who peddled the myth that lightning will not strike the same place twice. It kind of did in the **93rd Academy Awards**, when the Best Supporting Actress award went to South Korean Youn Yuh-jung, for her role as granny Soon-ja in the heart-warming *Minari*, beating off competition from Glenn Close's mad-haired Mamaw in *Hillbilly Elegy*. Anthony Hopkins winning his second Best Actor Oscar (he first won for *The Silence of the Lambs*) for *The Father* was disappointing, even if deserving. The sentimental favourite was the late Chadwick Boseman, who turned in an incendiary performance as the mercurial trumpeter, Levee Green, in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. As expected, *Nomadland* won big with **Best Picture, Best Director for Chloé Zhao and Best Actress** (Frances McDormand). It is a historic win for Zhao as she is only the second woman to win the award and the first woman of colour to do so. While elegiac in its beauty, *Nomadland* should have looked at privilege. Only a white person can feel safe enough to drop off the grid. Wandering white people, even if they are hulking ex-military policemen, are enlightened and definitely not lost, while a homeless black person will always be looked at with suspicion.

In this year of pandemics and lockdowns, the old rules of movies playing for a certain amount of time in theatres to be considered for the awards was relaxed. Movies directly released on streaming platforms made the cut. David Fincher's *Mank* got 10 nominations and won two — for cinematography and production design. Other favourites such as *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Sound of Metal*, *Pieces of a Woman*, *Hillbilly Elogy*, *One Night in Miami* and *The Trial of the Chicago 7* were also streamed. One gem of a film was *Two Distant Strangers*, which won for Best Live Action Short. The film effectively marries two burning issues — violence against black Americans by white policemen and being caught in a time loop. Black graphic designer, Carter James, just wants to get back to his dog and he is shot every time by a white policeman, Merk. The film brings alive memories of police brutality at home as well. Every time Carter wakes up after being shot, to live the day again, it is a reminder of the year of blursdays that passed by. One should, however, be thankful for blursdays — if one cannot distinguish one day from the next, it means nothing hideous happened to make the day stand out. That, in these days of shock and dread is definitely something to be grateful for.