

**English Language for Competitive Exams**  
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**Week - 04**  
**Lecture- 20**  
**Vocabulary: Word Families & Confusable Words**

Good morning. We will continue with our vocabulary building. So, please look at the slides here and these are the activities that you have to do. We will discuss the answers later, but I want you to look at these words and start trying to solve.

(Refer Slide Time: 00:24)

- **NADIR**
- (a) zenith (b) the lowest point (c) plateau (d) stagnated
- **RECALCITRANT**
- (a) hoarding (b) shy (c) rebellious (d) angry

So, please keep your dictionaries ready and let us get started. So, nadir does it mean zenith, the lowest point, plateau or stagnated. Recalcitrant: hoarding, shy, rebellious, angry.

(Refer Slide Time: 00:53)

- **SUBTERFUGE**
- (a) evasion (b) compulsion (c) regret (d) prearrangement
- **DISSENTIENT** (a) not agreeing (b) abstaining (c) odorless (d) unfeeling

Next subterfuge: evasion, compulsion, regret, prearrangement. Dissentient: not agreeing, abstaining, odourless, unfeeling.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:08)

- **DISSIPATE** (a) concentrate (b) squander (c) speak foolishly (d) drink slowly
- **DISTAFF** (a) musical scale (b) female (c) left (d) shepherd
- **ESCHEW** (a) eat slowly (b) to go wrong (c) avoid (d) lose

Dissipate: concentrate, squander, speak foolishly, drink slowly. Distaff: musical scale, female, left, shepherd. Eschew; eat slowly, to go wrong, avoid, lose.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:27)

- ETHNIC (a) moral (b) foreign (c) legal (d) racial
- FRESCO (a) painting on fresh plaster (b) cooling drink (c) Italian vegetable (d) fresh fruit
- HARBINGER (a) safe port (b) forerunner (c) drunken revel (d) warrior

Ethnic: moral, foreign, legal, racial. Fresco: painting on fresh plaster, cooling drink, Italian vegetable, fresh fruit. Harbinger: safe port, forerunner, drunken revel, warrior.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:43)

- HIRSUTE (a) cheap (b) juicy (c) hairy (d) smoky
- HOLOGRAPH (a) chart (b) table of contents (c) deep cavern (d) handwritten document

Hirsute: cheap, juicy, hairy, smoky. Holograph: chart, table of contents, deep cavern, handwritten document.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:53)

- ILLICIT (a) free (b) easy (c) spotless (d) not legal
- IMBROGLIO (a) decoration (b) quarrel (c) scandal (d) harem
- IMPROMPTU (a) offhand (b) tardy (c) precise (d) not proper

Illicit: free, easy, spotless, not legal. Imbroglio: decoration, quarrel, scandal, harem. Impromptu: offhand, tardy, precise not proper.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:07)

- IMPROVISE (a) impoverish (b) supervise (c) arrange suddenly (d) overlook
- IMPUGN (a) bother (b) hunt (c) attack (d) uphold
- INTERIM (a) meantime (b) entrance (c) burial (d) step

Improvise: impoverish, supervise, arrange suddenly, overlook. Impugn; bother, hunt, attack, uphold. Interim: meantime, entrance, burial, step.

Now, what is the meaning of nadir? Nadir is the opposite of zenith. So, the lowest point, this is how we have to write it. So, the entire organization is at its zenith today or at its nadir today, next you have to decide. Recalcitrant is rebellious, so rebellious

attitude towards authority. Subterfuge is evasion by deceit. So, he resorted to lot of subterfuge, it is not compulsion regret or prearrangement. Dissentient is not agreeing in opposition to majority, it is like dissentient, it is not abstaining odourless or unfeeling. Dissipate is squander away to dissipate energy, waste flitter away it is not concentrate or speak or drink. Distaff is a strange word if it means related to females, and women's work.

So, it is quiet an archaic word, and embroidery female distaff yeah. So, embroidery is a female distaff. So, related to women's work. Eschew means to avoid or to let go of something; Eschew we have to avoid this, it does not it eat slowly is to choose slowly and which is not the exact meaning of course, has to is to avoid. Ethnic is related to ration or racial to ethnic features, racial features related to a race particular rate. Fresco means painting on fresh plaster you know frescos of Ajanta, frescos of the 16 chapels. Harbinger is four runner. So, harbinger of bad news, something happen in it does not augur well, in the last class we have done something augur to portal yeah. So, it is harbinger of something. So, it has got nothing to do with harbour.

So, therefore, safe port just a confusing word, harbinger is fair runner. It is suit is hairy person with lot of hair abnormal variety or abnormal quantity of hair, body hair. Holograph is hand written document; illicit is not legal and imbroglio is a scandal. So, the committee was found itself in a big financial imbroglio scandal, in prompt is extemporary of an just without any preparation. Improvises to arrange something suddenly on the spot, not a very pre-arranged or, pre meditated; Impune is to attack or challenge, question. I was taken aback by him the by the way he buned me. Interim is mean time, in the interim period, interim government; interim administration, till something permanent is given to something that is happening ad hoc interim. So, now, after this I will give you a couple of individual words not just listen to me.

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Now, I am not going to give you some choices or exercises, but I would like you to pay attention to me some very common and popular words, that you may find in your competitive exam types of questions. So, there is a word called Fiat. It is complete Latin sentence; it means let it be done. So, therefore, the English word fiat means an authoritative order or decree.

So, fiat is the form of the word again Latin word facere f a c e r e, which means to do or make which in it is various diases f a c f i g f y f a c t f a c t it has made thousands of English words. So, some of the words is factious, is an adjective form of faction meaning causing dissention; then factious means made up hence artificial not genuine it is spurious. You also have a word like surfeit s u r f e i t it is a French word meaning over doing, surfeit overdone of something. You have got more than enough even of a good thing; that then you have fictitious which is a Portuguese word essentially it means an ideal charm which was believe to posse's magical powers and was worshipped by the owner.

Now, today we use the word figuratively; we say person has a fictitious of some object or idea or belief, if he has a blind or unreasoning affection for it. Feasible again it is a French word; it has a root in French in the French language meaning do able. Feasible plan is practicable workable and then you have something like malfeasance which is a wrong doing misconduct. Another word limn; now this is almost a verb, it does not we

do not pronounce us that limn, it is limn silent n to me it a literally means to paint or depict, is the abbreviated form of illuminate.

So, one of whose meanings is to decorate with colour designs or initial letters as in medieval manuscripts. So, you have words like luminary, luminous, lousad, elucidate all these are light upon clarify, then you have also pellucid which is crystal clear yeah pell being prefix.

Then you have lucubrate; to burn the midnight all mean laborious studies that is lucubrate, then you have lucubrations which is complementary and it means like a something which is too laboured, then you have a word like Lucite l u c i t e which is for secret name for something transcendent plastic. You should also know the word mime; mime literally means someone who imitates yeah, it comes from the Greek word mimos m i m o s. Now this is related to acting and theatre and then you have words related to it mimosas that is imitation.

Mimetic is an adjective, meaning imitating or quick to imitate then you have pantomime which means all imitating acting that is unaccompanied by words mister bimdas sort of pantomime, then you have mimicry the art of mimicking you have seen in radio and television and you know all these are so mimicry imitating someone you also have mimosa, which is a sensitive tropical plants. So, called because it puts on an act curling it is leaves when touched therefore, it is called mimosa, and then you have a word like mimeograph which is the trademark for copying machine which was invented by Thomas Edison, and much used by theoretical press agents.

Now then you have next word sate sated means you are fully satisfied you know; I am satiated. So, you are in a state of satiety the origin is Latin word; satis therefore, you get satisfaction, in insatiable curiosity is one that cannot be satisfied and then you have a word like tort t o r t; tort is a legal term for a special type of wrongful act t o r t tort the Latin word tort has means twisted or crooked. So, tort has now found it is way in to a number of English language words tort for example, you have distort, you have retort; retort is to twist back a reply the perfect retort being won by which our opponents statement or argument is turned against him or distort is to twist out of shape. Contort is to twist together upon itself a face can be contorted in pain.

Then you have also have a word like extort to twist out by first, then you have nest altium which is a no twister because of it is pungent, odour and then you have torture twisting parts of the body that is torturing. So, these are the words and the words roots and families that you should know and now let me talk to you something which is very commonly found in all competitive exams confusable words. So, let me give you two words now; basilisk you can open your dictionaries if you want to. So, this is one spelling and then basilica, what is the difference? These are all confusing words basilisk and basilica; actually the two are related for both are derived from the root of basilius the Greek word for king.

So, the idea of power and royalty recides in them as in the name of the plant basal; basilisk is little king a fabulous lizard dragon surpant, whose hissing drove other reptiles away and whose very look was thought to be fatal. Basalika is a royal portico; in ancient Rome the basalika was a building used for social and commercial meetings, it had long central hall rising higher than the colonnaded (Refer Time: 13:19). The early churches Christian churches were modelled after the basalikas; the title basalika is given to certain Roman Catholic churches, and carries with it is own special liturgical privileges.

Other set of confusable words that I wanted to draw your attention is to is, bi annually and by annually. Bi annually something that happens twice a year, the magazine or the journal publishes bi annually. Bi annually means every two years once in every two years. Next set of words chaotic and inchoate let me write them for you, chaotic means adjective; it is an adjective word from chaos a state of confusion. Inchaotic is a Latin word meaning to begin, just a beginning therefore, still rudimentary or undeveloped; so, inchaotic. These words come clothing meaning because things in their early stages may also be in a state of confusion a chaotic.

Now, other two words are charys c h a r y and wary w a r y; c h a r y w a r y very suspicious and very of this statement I do not trust it easily I have been biten once. So, I do not trust you. So, I am wary of you it is like an alertness against being taken in, whereas chary means carefulness, great reserve and discretion; so she chary it that is the meaning.

So, if your chary of praise you give it sparingly; and if you are wary of praise you take it a sparingly, because you are on guard against. Now next two words are complacent and



complaisant; quite similar in pronunciation we have pronounced a like, but they have different meanings; you be complacent when you are a smug you feel you have achieved a lot, or you have worked a lot, you come you become a complacent you do not have anything else to work towards or achieve that is what you feel. They have both words both words rather a derived from the same root plac p l a c; that means, to please complacent is closer to the Latin meaning, and complacent comes to us through French language. In both words we have to understand that p l a c s common complacent is self-satisfied smug very pleased with oneself.

Complacent of on the other hand means willing to please others, a obliging complaint affair build; so, person of complacent nature. In the last word set of words that I wanted to do today with you is continual and continuous. Now continual means recurring at intervals. So, you can have continual rainfalls you can have continuous rainfalls going on without breaks. So, continuous is going on without a break continual means occurring, but at intervals. So, recurring at intervals continue, but with breaks continuous without a break. So, we will continue with more such words.

Thank you very much.