

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Week - 04
Lecture – 21
Vocabulary: word origins and confusable words

Welcome back friends. So, in today's lecture and in continuation with our vocabulary development, I am going to talk about word history of these 4 very interesting and frequently occurring words, bucolic dearth euthanasia and logistics and I will just tell you in what context do they occur, and what is the background of these words, and then I will also continue with confusable words.

Words that sound alike or they are spelt a like, but they are used in different context for with different meanings. So, bucolic is basically a literary and poetic kind of a word, in the poetry of the ancients and especially the Greek kind of poetry shepherds and herdsman laden idyllic existence.

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You know what is an Idyllic? Idyllic kind of and an existence; living in harmony with nature flora fauna, and basically living serene calm quite life in the country side. So, Idyllic, Idyllic existence; so these herdsman and shepherds and specially in poetry they

would lead in idyllic existence while tending their flocks, they made their pleasant music on the pipes of the pan you should know this word.

So, pan is a demigod God. See the Greeks have several Gods and Goddess; now we are going to soon do a couple of classes and sessions because so many words and vocabulary expressions are derived from the names of Greek Gods and Goddess; for example, herculean, promethean. So, I am going to do couple of sessions on that also you need to know that. So, pan was also demigod kind of Greek God, who was known for playing his pipes and basically looking after the pastoral rural simple country folk. So, the idea is that the city (Refer Time: 02:52) side for the pastoral existence of the country side, they earned for the pastoral existence of the country side.

The word bucolic describes this type of will living, it comes from the word for herdsman and shepherds. Bucolias, a person who has to do with cows and oxen; ox singular, oxen plural, you do not say oxes. So, from the related Latin root we get bovine that is cow like. So, b o v i n e bovine is a Latin term for cow like. So, sometimes you also say the bovine men folk of this family cow like. So, this is what we calling bucolic meant related to the to life the idyllic existence in the country side. Bucolic describes it is always an idealized description for any place. So, perhaps you can say IIT Madras campus has a bucolic environment, thick forests, living in harmony with animals and nature. So, bucolic existence, exactly the word means living in idealized kind of an existence.

Now, let us see dearth. Dearth is you know that the meaning the literal meaning is lack, lack of something there is dearth of water in our city. A dearth is just the word that like you know you have to remember dear, and ending in th like worm and warmth, and health like even like deep and depth, grow and growth, true and truth. It once meant dearness, but now it means it scarcity. So, it means reminds us that the loss supplied demands is old that was scares became was something dear d e a r is not always used in the loving or lovable way, dear as we also say that it is a very for example, it cause me dearly about a house it cause me dearly. So, it was very expensive, I made a mistake it cause me dearly I made a very I made mistake for which I had to pay some kind of a price emotional or material.

Euthanasia this is another well it derives from nowadays it used madly mainly in medical terms, literate means and easy manner of dyeing. Now the Greek prefix e u is used here,

and e u means easily as a prefix. See we have been talking about prefixes and suffixes. So, you add a prefix and it changes the meaning of word, so when you use the word use the prefix e u it is done well or easily Greek prefix. And thanatos t h a n a t o s it means death, in modern times in contemporary used it means the act of practice of putting a hopelessly a terminally ill person to death painlessly.

Remember thanatos was the Greek personification of death, again we are talking about Greek mythology and thanatos was personification of death to in brother of sleep, and the son of night. And there is also a famous poem by William Cullen Bryant and it is called Thanatopsis; it is a view or contemplation of death. This is how it will spell, please look at the spelling by William Cullen Bryant Thanatopsis.

Logistics; now logistics is derived from French verb loger l o g e r like billing, put up for the night and army has to be felt, transported, supplied and logered, and logistics is the most important branch of military art and science, which are tends to these details. A military term when some nowadays we also some logistics has to be taken care of corporate are very fond of using this expression in this term nowadays, logistics did not work out with (Refer Time: 08:04) essentially a military work.

Now we will move on to our confusable word and first set is deprecated and depreciate. Now remember deprecate is an action; that means, is to disapprove something strongly, deprecate and depreciate is rain the value of something comes down. So, deprecate is the idea of regret that the action has occurred and we are applying we deprecated disapproved; depreciate is when we abilities something especially when we dealing deflate and lesson it in value opposite to the word a opposite or oppose to the word appreciate, which means the value is increases; specially we use it in terms of property value.

Another set discomfited and discomforted. Now discomfited means literally to be completely undone do be defeated to be frustrated. Adding to my discomfiture, discomfited, frustrated, undone. Discomfort is you are uncomfortable somewhere, you are not rare very comfortable in some surroundings. It does not literally means prostrated, but discomfited is a stronger word. The next set disinterested and uninterested, now disinterested does not always mean not interested people get confused. Uninterested means that people are not interested, but disinterested means without selfish

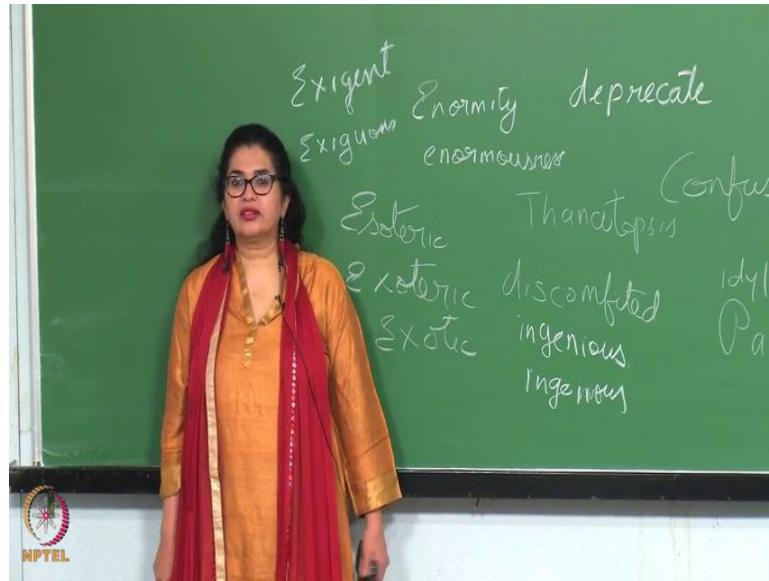
motives at sense of detachment, I am disinterested an disinterested member of this society or this organization, I do not have vested interest. Uninterested means I do not have any interest; I have lost interest in this. Disinterest is means that I do not have any objectives I am impartial, I am unbiased; uninterested means I am bored indifferent.

Next set of words enormous and enormousness, enormity and enormousness; enormity enormousness. Now enormity emphasizes the abnormality the outrages of something, enormity of the crime, magnitude of the crime. So, I was taken a bag by the enormity of the equitation level against someone. Enormousness refers to hugeness or size, I was taken a bag, but the enormous enormousness of the building of the house it was so huge. Next set equable and equitable; now equable means is study uniform and even tempered, a country side may have an equable climate, a person may have equable temperament equable disposition, so you study uniform even tempered.

Equitable means just and fair a division or a distribution of profits or goods may be equitable in accordance with equity. Next set of words esoteric exoteric, esoteric; exoteric please note down the spellings and exotic 3 words. Esoteric is secret in the sense of being only for the initiated, people who have been trained in something for those in the inner circle. He saw a prefect is within esoteric inner. So, it is meant for the chosen few; exoteric is opposite of esoteric, it is popular it is easily understood therefore, esoteric is something which is less excisable, esoteric is not for the general public, for the masses. You can use it in terms of certain books; esoteric book, so esoteric discipline.

Exoteric is something which is excisable easily understood and popular among many. And exotic is foreign is strain (Refer Time: 13:26) is outside. So, it is something which people find very interesting and very hard to understand foreign. Now sometimes they say exotic is sometimes used in terms of race also, is x y z is an exotic race for a people of this country. So, in that way because they are considered very colourful and peculiar in their attitudes or believe or appearance colour of the skin so, exotic; we also say exotic locations, so exotic locations which are unfamiliar and foreign to us.

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Next set of words exigent and exiguous; exigent e x i g e n t, exiguous e x i g u o u s; exigent is urgent requiring immediate attention; do with exigently, exiguous is small trifling. So, exigency of a situation are the urgent needs, exiguous is small it does not really need that kind of attention. Next set of words flaunt f l a u n t, flout f l o u t. Flaunt means a making a display proudly; you know the people have lot of money, they are buying big cars, big houses, foreign cars BMW Mercedes, we say the flaunting their wealth.

Spending lot of money let us say on a pair of shoes flaunting your money, spending lot of money on perhaps let us say throwing a party. So, what is the need to flaunt is showing off to make a big show off. Sometimes people may also use it in the sense of in the context of flaunting a relationship, we do not know do not approve of this, but still they are flouting it here. Now a flout means do define to pay no attention in to disregard; flouted all the rules, you supposed to do this, you suppose to submit assignments, you do not submit on time you are flouting all the rules of course.

Next set of words fortuitous and gratuitous; fortuitous is happening by chance accidental, it does not mean of a fortunate please remember it is happening by chance accidental. We met fortuitously and gratuitous is for no good reason uncalled for unwarranted. So, easily confused words; next set of words inflammable and inflammatory, inflammable is capable of being certain fire, combustible petroleum is a universe or oil is an is an

inflammable substance, you also say inflammable temperament just burst in to tantrums. Inflammatory likely to inflame passions rousing; so he made an inflammatory speech, which is likely to inflame passions and rouses strong emotions; next set of words ingenious and ingenuous. Here I will I think you will require the spellings pay attention to that ingenious ingenuous n i o u s and n u o u s, i n g e n u o u s ingenious is clever and resourceful, ingenious is likely to cleaver and resourceful. Ingenuous is frank ended unsophisticated (Refer Time: 18:08) person. Opposite of this is disingenuous in sincere; this is clever this is knife candent someone who trust easily.

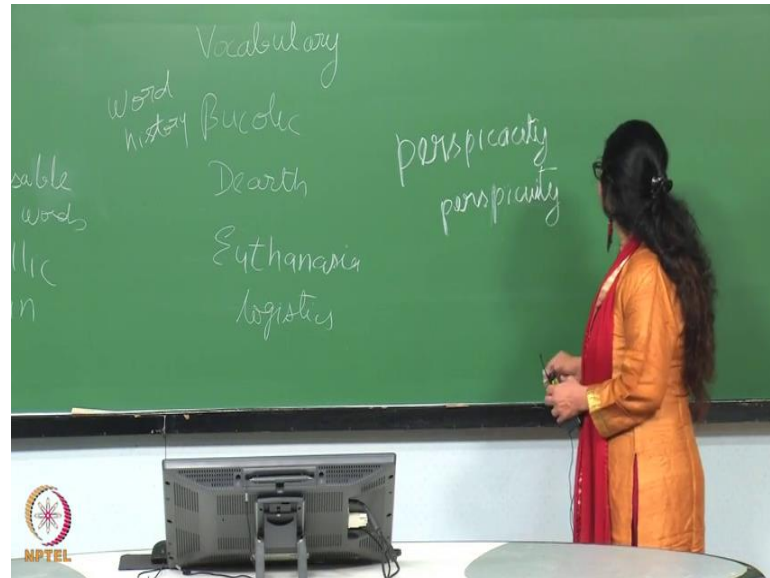
Next set of words judicial and judicious; judicial is faire like a judge, judicial declaration judgment. And judicious is a wise prey provident sensible, a judicial decision and when decision is wise we call it judicious decision. So, judicial is legal judicious is wise, judicious is not used in legal terms always, it can be used in general terms also you made a judicious, sage decision wise decision. Next set of words militate m i l i t a t e and mitigate m i t i g a t e; militate is to work against to hinder to fight against. it comes from mice it is Latin for solider m i l i t s. Mitigate is to reduce severity of mitigate of some bodies anguish; anguish by kind words.

Mitigate is sometimes used incorrectly for militate, militate is always against mitigate is militate is always followed also by the preposition against, but mitigate never; you do not say mitigate against we say militate against. Next set of words official officious, official is having an authoritative standing, or official letter did you get the letter officially we often ask that is important. Officious is going beyond once official duties, it is quite interfering he was too officious about it as use then understood by most people the word officious has gone beyond the meanings found in our dictionary.

Today is used with meaning of like bossy or interfering or even demiurgic; next set of words perspicacity, please note the spelling perspicacity and then perspicuity c u i t y; perspicacity perspicuity. Those who can know that perspicacity perspicacity is the quality of scene clearly, while perspicacity is the quality of being clear; we should know that perspicacious means shrewd the first word, and perspicacious means clear one is shrewd one is both adjectives. Next set of words prescribe p r e s c r i b e you also prescribe text books or prescribe doctor prescribe medicine, and then proscribe p r o s c r i b e. Prescribe is lied down the rules for prescription, proscribe is prohibit it is almost like opposite. So, synonyms for proscribe prohibit outlaw interdict prescribe and

proscribe are almost opposite it is remember that if a course of action is prescribed the blue print for it is furnished if a course of action is proscribed it is prohibited.

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Next set of words definite and definitive; definite means certain specific, you know death is definite event, being old is a definite I may delay it, but you it everyone is certain to die and people who live long they will get old. So, these are definite states of the universe, sun is the definite entity, it is presides it exact it is final, but definitive is final conclusive, we often say the definitive word on something. He is the chairmen is going to have the definitive word or it is a more commonly and more appropriately we can use it as let us say this is the definitive text book, seminar textbook definitive is the final word. Biography so complete that it is the publication is to and all other discussion on this subject; so biography of Abraham Linkon definitive biography; so this is the definitive book.

So, thank you very much we will continue with our discussion on vocabulary, and more different kinds of usage in our next class.