

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Week – 05
Lecture – 25
Vocabulary: Synonyms Meanings & Confusable Words

Good morning. We continue with our another session of English language for competitive exams and purposes. Today we are going to continue with our exercises in vocabulary, and some of the things that we will be doing today, I will be giving you choosing the correct meaning. So, the word that approximate closes in meaning to the given word, word meaning confusable words all these part of today's talks, so without wasting much time let us move on look at the first slide here.

(Refer Slide Time: 00:51)

Choose the correct meaning

- **MORES**
(a) additions (b) nationalities
(c) customs (d) conflicts
- **NEBULOUS**
(a) starry (b) cloudy
(c) intoxicated (d) clear
- **OBSOLESCENCE**
(a) destruction (b) opposition
(c) consolation (d) going out of use

Choose the correct meaning, exercise, and mores. Mores is addition, nationalities or given choices; pick up the best choice please. Addition nationalities customs and conflicts; nebulous is it starry, cloudy, intoxicated or clear; obsolescence, destruction, opposition, consolation going out of use.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:21)

- **OPULENT** (a) soothing (b) wealthy (c) hopeful (d) attacking
- **PANACEA** (a) cure-all (b) vital organ (c) oceanic island (d) international agreement
- **PENURIOUS** (a) poor (b) imprisoned (c) stingy (d) hardy
- **PEREMPTORILY** (a) promptly (b) decisively (c) exorbitantly (d) thoroughly

Opulent; soothing, wealthy, hopeful, attacking, panacea; cure-all, vital organ, oceanic island international agreement; penurious, poor, imprisoned, stingy, hardly, peremptorily, promptly, decisively, exorbitantly, thoroughly.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:44)

- **PRELATE** (a) army officer (b) geometric curve (c) college head (d) church official
- **PRESAGE** (a) grow old (b) publicize (c) send ahead (d) predict
- **PROXY** (a) neighbor (b) president (c) fraud (d) substitute

Prelate; army officer, geometric curve, college head, church official, presage; grow old, publicize, send ahead, predict, proxy; neighbor, president, fraud, substitute.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:00)

- **PUNGENT** (a) pugnacious (b) erasing (c) biting (d) wild
- **QUIXOTIC** (a) fleet-footed (b) visionary (c) protective (d) foreign
- **RENEGADE** (a) partisan (b) villain (c) deserter (d) adherent
- **RESCIND** (a) confirm (b) go back (c) change (d) cancel

Pungent: pugnacious, erasing, biting, wild; quixotic: fleet-footed, visionary, protective, foreign. Renegade: partisan, villain, deserter, adherent. Rescind: confirm, go back, change, cancel.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:20)

- **RESTIVE** (a) quiet (b) patient (c) resisting (d) submissive
- **SEMINAR** (a) graduate course of study (b) conservatory (c) agricultural board (d) sewing-circle
- **SHALE** (a) type of rock (b) head covering (c) oil (d) fish
- **TRUCKLE** (a) convey (b) domineer (c) drag along (d) yield subserviently

Restive: quite, patient, resisting, submissive; seminar: graduate course of study, conservatory, agricultural board, a sewing circle; shale: that the type of rock, head covering, oil, fish; truckle: convey, domineer, drag along, yield subserviently.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:48)

- **INDURATE** (a) burn in (b) suffer (c) grow hard (d) promise
- **INTRANSIGENT** (a) complex (b) uncompromising (c) sleepless (d) traveling
- **KILN** (a) pot (b) small cave (c) crate (d) large oven
- **LACONIC** (a) statuesque (b) terse (c) talkative (d) lingering

Indurate: burn in, suffer, grow hard, promise, intransigent or intransigent; complex, uncompromising, sleepless and d travelling. Kiln: pot, small cave, crate and large oven; laconic: statuesque, terse, talkative and d lingering.

(Refer Slide Time: 03:18)

- **LAVE** (a) heat (b) dislike (c) wash (d) defeat
- **LOGISTICS** (a) results (b) diplomacy (c) reasoning (d) supplying and quartering troops
- **LUCUBRATE** (a) polish (b) oil (c) illuminate (d) study hard

Lave is it heat, dislike, wash or defeat; logistics: results, diplomacy, reasoning, supplying and quartering troops; lucubrate: polish, oil, illuminate study hard.

(Refer Slide Time: 03:39)

- **MIEN** (a) compromise (b) Chinese vase (c) bearing (d) anger
- **MIMICRY** (a) imitation (b) shouting (c) plant (d) insect
- **MULCT** (a) think over (b) soften with (c) soap pasture (d) take away by trickery

Mien; is it compromise, Chinese vase, bearing that is option c, or d anger. Mimicry: imitation, b shouting, c plant, d insect. Mulct: a think over, b soften with, c soap pasture and d take away by trickery.

(Refer Slide Time: 04:02)

- **NEBULOUS** (a) cloudy (b) clear (c) starry (d) intoxicated
- **NEOPHYTE** (a) branch (b) beginner (c) warrior (d) limb
- **NEXUS** (a) insect (b) vein (c) link (d) neighbor

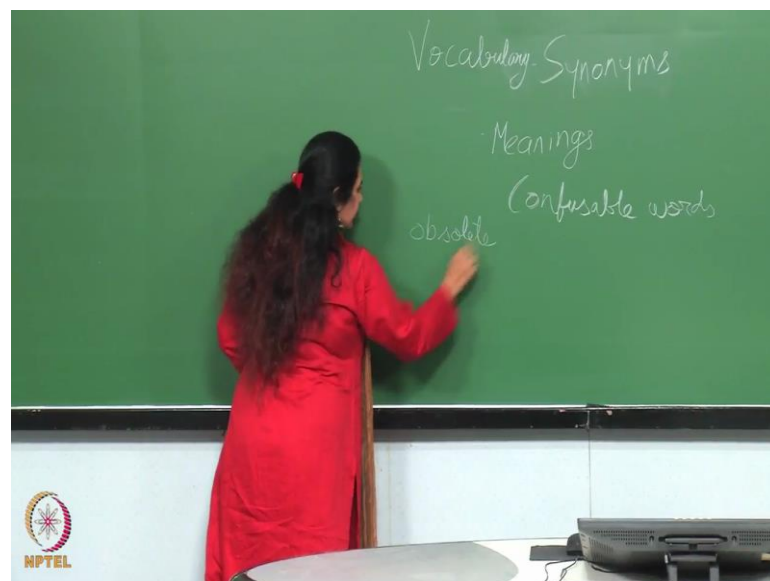
We have already done nebulous; neophyte, a b c d branch, beginner, warrior limb. Nexus is it insect, vein, link or neighbor. Give yourself some time open your dictionaries, if you have friends here with you, you can discuss your answers with your friends. As well remember in this initial stage of learning, you need not hesitate about asking any help

from any direction or any source whether it is a dictionary or your friend. So, no harm in discussing your answers or asking for help, but learn it in a way that it remains in your minds, when you eventually appear for exams. So, let us discuss now the answers no mores we had 4 choices; addition and I have a suspicion that many of you would have mark this answer addition because we always say I want more hence; that means, additionally, but that is not the correct answer so please remember that.

Nationalities no customs and conflicts, can you decide between the two customs or conflicts and mores? Now generally we use mores it is a higher order vocabulary, and it is in plurals see it is not more, but mores within s. So, it means the cultural excesses or cultural we when we say mores societal mores, we mean the way or society or a culture function. So, it has got everything to do with customs. So, c customs is the best answer, please let me repeat for you mores the exact answer is c customs, it is not more for you to write for you to confuse it with addition, nebulous is cloudy.

So, it is a very poetic word nebula, it derives itself so cloudy is the word is the right meaning. Obsolescence now destruct it is a difficult word I understand. So, destruction opposition, consolation, now you have to think of it the way it reads there is a word called obsolete n.

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Let me write it for you o b s o l e t e, when something becomes obsolete it means going out of fashion or it is no longer trendy is no longer in use. So, that is the meaning of

obsolesce going out of use, and remember obsolete we say obsolete word, words that are no longer used. Obsolete customs, customs which should not be your r not used languages can also become obsolete. Now opulent should be easy, opulent is not soothing hopeful or attacking, exact meaning is wealthy I was taken aback by the opulence of (Refer Time: 07:43) I was taken a bag by the opulence of the wedding or at the wedding. I was taken a bag by the opulent surroundings of the palace or other castle, I went to Buckingham palace and I was overwhelmed by it is opulent environment.

So, something that reeks of or is makes of wealth. Panacea is a cure all, panacea panacea sorry to all ills that is the way use, the this could be the panacea to all ills to all the problems, it is a cure, it is a remedy, it is a treatment, it is not vital organ ocean, ocean island or international agreement the other choice is remember panacea. Penurious poor imprisoned stringy hardly the right choice is poor, poverty, stricken. So penurious; peremptorily it is promptly, decisively, exorbitantly or thoroughly, right answer is b decisively peremptory command.

Next is prelate; a army officer, b geometric curve, c geo collage head and d church official best answer is official prelates are generally use the word is use in association with people who work at a church. Presage is grow old, publicize, send ahead or predict the best answer is d predict; heavy clouds presage rain fall. So, you predict something, I presage that there will be some kind of unrest after this announcement or after this declaration.

So, you are presaging you are predicting. Proxy is by substitute, so the exact answer is d is not neighbor; Neighbor means do not get confuse proximity, I live in proximity with someone. So, you are a neighborhood it has got nothing to do with presidency a fraud or the best answer is substitute of course, to rule something by proxy; so substitute. Pungent is I it is a pungent smell something that affects you directly, affects you very forcefully. So, the best answer is biting here, the best choice here is biting extremely something that affects you with extreme force. Quixotic now the word comes from Quixote, and who was Don Quixote he it is the eponymous novel by Miguel de Cervantes, the Spanish writer who wrote the novel Don Quixote, where there he wrote is an eccentric and a kind of an eccentric he wants to change things, he wants to sort of you know live a mark in the world by his activities.

So, quixotic over are the word is derive from Don Quixote and it has down the years down the centuries it has come to be associated with someone, who is a visionary and exact meaning is eccentric or extremely idealistic. So, that is you are quixotic; it is not fleet footed, it is not protective, it is not foreign. Foreign is exotic quixotic, eccentric, visionary, idealistic. Renegade is a deserter, is a negative word quixotic is also negative word. So, always remember that if you have to choose that we are remember that quixotic is generally use negatively, but it can also be in an affection it way, your quixotic announcements or your quixotic methods eccentric, but it is not as negative as renegade deserter, that meanings partisan villain and adherent are not applicable rescind is cancel your rescinded act.

The earlier governments declare something, the present government rescinded it. So, cancelled it choices conform or conform or go back and change do not really matter here. Seminar is a graduate course of studies, not conservatory agricultural board or showing circle. Seminar is a very is a seminar course is a very commonly used word particularly in institutes of higher education. Shale is a type of rock some us may get confused with that this is the kind of a fish, but it is not sha and shale is covering. So, head covering. So, do not get confused shale is types of rock or sedimentary rock those of who are interested in geology geography. Trickle is to yield sub subserviently, trickled along someone; you know someone who just went along with whatever was happening. So, convey, domineer, drag along and to accept something subserviently, indurate is to grow hard.

So, for example, a proud mind a craft it and indurate hard, took hard that has grown hard it is not burn or suffer a promise. So, indurate exact meaning is option c grow hard indurate hard or indurate hard as in hard hearted; intransigent is uncompromising. So, other choices complex and travelling and all they do not matter then it is best choice is uncompromising. Kiln is a large oven or furnace like thing; it is not a pot or a cave or crate. Laconic is terse generally we say laconic response terse response, it is opposite is talkative. Lingering and statues do not matter here.

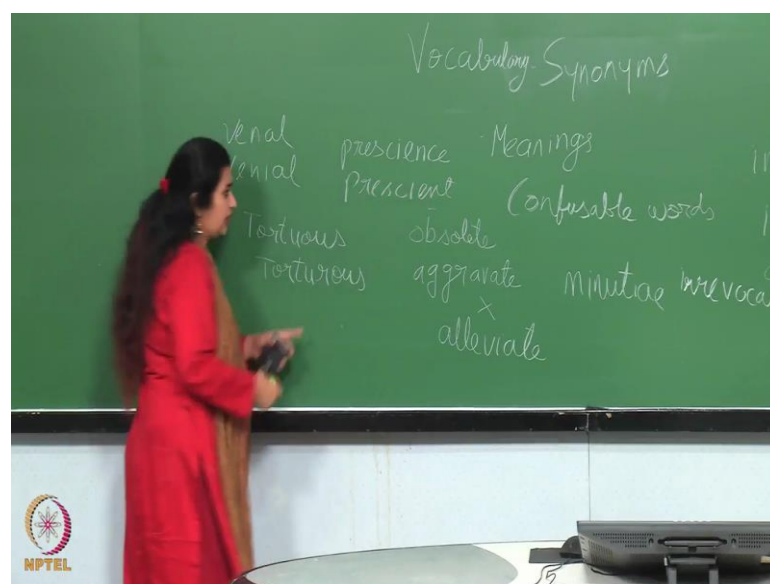
So, confusion should arrive between terse and talkative, talkative is the opposite of laconic either you are terse or you talk a lot. So, yours talk is the opposite. Lave is to wash, heat, dislike, defeat, nome; lave is wash. Logistics is or logistics rather supplying and quartering troops. So, we often decide the logistics of organizing something some

military work, but now it has come to be accepted attempt form to form a part in corporate circles and even in academic institutions you know we do not have we have to plan the logistics of it.

So, supplying and quartering troops, it is not result or diplomacy or reasoning. Lucubrate now this is going to be very confusing, it is not lubricate therefore, it is not oil, it is not polish, though it may look very at first glance this may confuse you, lubricate oil or polish lucubrate is to study hard. Mean is a compromise or Chinese ways or bearing of our anger, right option is bearing of cautious mien; m i e n is pronounced as mien not m i e n and of cautious mean of careful mean that is a bearing a personality that is cautious.

That is it is a when we say cautious mien it we mean we are trying to say, that someone who has a personality of being very cautious. So, mien is bearing or personality type. Mimicry most of us are aware of this it is imitation, it is not shouting, it is not plant or insect mulct, it is to take away by trickery. Please remember this word to take away something from somebody by trickery neophyte is a beginner, we often say this one is a neophyte; you can have a neophyte actor, you can have a neophyte cricketer, just a beginner not a warrior. Nexus is collaboration link or generally we say it in a negative cons connotation. So, it is not insect vein or neighbor, it is a link collaboration. Now we have done choosing the correct answer or response, now we are going to move on to something else altogether words that can be confusable.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:19)



So, first set tortuous and torturous I will write it for you” Tortuous” ” Torturous” what is the difference? Tortuous is long winding you know sometimes I read tortuous paragraphs, a sentence that is goes on and on and on and on and it is twisting. Tortuous sometimes we also said this lane, the roads are tortuous they may be torturous, but it is something they are not exactly same torturous is pain for you; it made for a tortuous reading.

So, tortuous sentences make for torturous reading you can say that as well, but please note that difference in meanings and difference in spelling. Tortuous is winding or twisting not winding, exact spelling is wind but it is not winding it is winding when we say long winding it is tortuous; goes on and on and on torturous painful. Next set turbid t u r b i d, and turgid t u r g i d; so turbid is muddy, clouded turbid water, turbid lake. Turgid is swollen and pompous it is a way; it is a personality swollen inflated turgid head pompous personality. Next set unexceptionable and unexceptional, something that is unexceptionable is above reproach, no objection or exception can be taken to it, but exceptionable is something very ordinary unexceptional. So, first word unexceptionable meaning is beyond reproach, you cannot take any objection to it or exception to it, unexceptional mean something which is very ordinary then it is unexceptional; exceptional opposite unexceptional.

Next set venal and venial you may want to note this spellings, this is v e n a l venal; v e n i a l. Venal that can be bought a bribed corrupt; venial is forgivable, excusable, trivial forgive my venial sense. Venal something sometimes misuse for venial, but remember how to differentiate venial is trivial, if you associate that venial trivial, venal harmful corrupt someone who takes bribe, poisonous; venial is trivial something which is very ordinary. Next set is acrid a c r i d and acrimonious.

Acrimonious both come from the same Latin rule and mean bitter, but acrid is reserve for taste or a smell, and acrimonious for quarrels or discussions. Acrimonious quarrel acrid smell next is aggravate and annoy. Now aggravate is used in the sense of making a situation worse, do not aggravate the situation by writing such mails; already there is lot of situation is acrimonious, do not aggravate the situation. Alleviate or a annoy is to irritate someone, alleviate is the opposite of aggravate or sorry aggravate.

Aggravate means to add something; move to make something more to make something words or more severe do not say more words. So, make something words or more severe. Opposite is alleviate, aggravate pain and opposite is to alleviate pain. Alleviate comes from the word Levis, which is light l i g h t and gravis is high. Many uses the word aggravate when they really mean annoy or irritate; be careful there is a difference in the intensity. Next set of words ambiguous and equivocal; ambiguous and equivocal; sometimes people use these words interchangeably to mean having two or more possibility interpretations, ambiguous is going off into (Refer Time:24:14) directions.

Equivocal is equal voice or double talk, ambiguity is always unintentional, equivocation is purposeful; the writing is quite ambiguous, character of the hero is quite ambiguous, we do not know whether is good or bad. Equivocation purposeful intended to deceive, ambiguity is not really supposed to deceive. Remember an ambiguous statement is made by someone who does not know how to make himself clear, while in equivocal statements is made by someone who does not want to make himself clear, who wants to use double talk very diplomatic. Opposite of ambiguous unambiguous, opposite of equivocal unequivocal; ambiguous opposite is also very clear. So, that see opposes something is ambiguous something is very clear crystal clear, anybody can be ambiguous you have to be clever to be equivocal.

Remember that is the way. So, diplomats international diplomats the way they are make their statement, they are not being ambiguous they are being equivocal e q u i v o c a l. Next set of words imply and infer; implies to suggest in directly insinuate, this is another good word you should know insinuate favorite of many exam takers, nuate. What are you trying to insinuate, what are trying to imply. Infer is to draw conclusion to deduce, I infers. A scientific language generally says infer, the inference is implies to insinuate these are difference, when we infer we are concluding something mostly unequivocally. Next set of words obfuscation and obscurantism o b f u s c a t i o n obscurantism o b s c u r a n t i s m.

Now, obscurantism is very strong, to obfuscate means to darken whether is already some light and thus confuse and bewilder, to confuse someone. Obfuscate is therefore, the act of confusing others or the state of being confuse yourself, and obscurants is one who want to things dark obscure; you know what is obscure? Obscure is something which is a not very clear, someone who is tries to prevent and enlightenment is oppose to progress.

The word is often used to describe someone who is bigoted and reactionary, obscurantism therefore, means a bigoted opposition to enlightenment. Next is prone and supine there used interchangeably which is incorrect.

These words should be seen from like opposites. Prone is flat thrown forward flat on one space. So, prone; prone to do something prone I am prone to I am prone let me think of a good example for you. So, perhaps you know my brother is prone to sleep late at nights is a tendency. So, prone is lying on one's back inactive. So, prone lying face for downward, which can be used in any way and supine is lying on one's back. Other word is other mean that is literal meaning but it is also inactive, I will repeat it for you. So, prone literally means flat on one space, it also means a tendency to prone to do some prone to do something. Supine literally is lying on one's back, other meaning is inactive. Supine tendency supine way are behaving inactive; will move on to do some synonyms and also some antonyms. So, my first word to you is intrepid today, intrepid which is an adjective i n t r e p i d. Trepidus is a Latin word which means alarm or agitated, in of course, is a prefix and negative prefix. These are so something will not to be fright and fearless undaunted, intrepidity is adverb other synonyms for this are adventurous, for intrepidity, adventurous or edacious bold.

So, intrepid is your adjective; so courageous, dauntless, fearless, heroic adventurous, I have already told you resolute undaunted valiant valorous. So, these are your synonyms for intrepid. Opposite or an antonym for intrepid would be trepidation. So, I have hesitated, but we do not said trepid. So, antonym for intrepidity is afraid, or fear, or rather intrepid opposite of intrepid is afraid, apprehensive, cowardly, craven, cringing fearful, see that is fearless this is fear fearful; frightened, pusillanimous, timid, timorous remember both these words come from trepidation and intrepid come from the same route t r e p, so intrepidity and trepidation.

Next word irrevocable, irrevocable I double r e v o c a b l e, it is a Latin word which means unable to be recalled, beyond recall final. Unalterable cannot be chained irrevocable promise, irrevocable faith, it come from the same route v o c which means revoke, invoke, evoke, provoke, evocation. So, that is the same route what is a evocation? Evocation is a calling away from once regular profession like a hobby.

Next word is longevity; longevity is a the it comes from the Latin word lanugos, that is long and aevum is age a e v u m age. Now length of life longevity exact meaning prolong duration of life. It comes from the same route as aev, a e v and other words are like coeval, primeval, medieval. So, longevity and brevity is the opposite shot. Next word minutiae, minutiae always used in plural form, minutia is a smallness insignificant. So, small details insignificance details, trifles precise details of a small consequences; minutiae of this declaration or this agreement; remember this come from the same route as m i n or m i n u. So, you have other words from here you like diminish let us make a smaller, diminutive which is another adjective and means small, diminutive is a noun diminutive is an adjective and all these things they point towards a smallness.

Next word is posthumous, very common word Latin posthumous latest or last. It is form from preposition post; posthumous refer to a late born child or the youngest child and sometimes to a child born after the father's death. So, born after the death of the father, but sometimes you also use it in the sense of achieving something after death. Heath leisure refused the Oscar award posthumously right after his death. We also have the same prefix post yeah posthumously p o s t is the prefix, and suffix I am sorry prefix post. So, we have other words like posterity like generation that came after. So, using the prefix p o s t from posthumous we have posterity, preposterous is something contrary to reason or quite you know to make a preposterous remark means a silly remark unbelievable remark. It is so silly that cannot be believed and postern p o s t e r n is back gate and entrance.

Next word is prescient, is a noun and prescient is an adjective with a t. Prescience is foreknowledge before and see s c i r e is a Latin word to know. So, knowledge of evens before they happen foresight, foreknowledge, prescient is an adjective an omniscient is all knowing; share less is one someone who pretends to knowledge added to what you know additional, supplemental and then next we have rudiment. Rudiment is usually found in the plural it means imperfect; a first principle of any discipline an art or science rudiments of maths, rudiments of any kind of knowledge, that which is react in rudimentary also mean something which is yet an undeveloped state.

So, from the same route h u d; erudite it is freed from un-development. So, erudite we call some he is very erudite very knowledgeable erudition. So, learn (Refer Time: 36:54) scholarly. Next word is succinct, succinct s u c c or double c i n c t it is an adjective to

express something in few words very brief very concise. So, explain succinctly, do not over do it and opposite is synonym or sorry synonyms are for succinct, compact, concise, condensed laconic we have already done this. So, these are all synonyms, succinct is brief and synonyms are compact, concise, condense say it condemn in condensed form a (Refer Time: 37:43) summary terse, laconic pithy.

Antonyms is defuse, lengthy, locations winding right we have done such words before verbose, wordy. So, all these mean going on and on. Next is vagary v a g a r y it is quiet and obsolete kind of a word, nowadays it means an eccentric extra vegant notion, it also means roaming about, but it in an obsolete form. Roaming around meaning has become obsolete; nowadays we use it in to suggest the something is eccentric. Synonyms are capricious fanciful, corky, quixotic, whimsical.

So, thank you very much and we will continue with more exercises in our next class.