

English Language for Competitive Exams
Prof. Aysha Iqbal
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Week - 07
Lecture – 31
Names and Vocabulary

Good morning. I am going to do a couple of text completion type of exercises with you, but that is just like a wind up of what we were doing last time. Today's focus primarily, would be on vocabulary development by way of certain names, names that have become so popular that they have come to become a part of our popular vocabulary Lexicon and English language and Latin words also.

So, see perhaps for the vocab test type questions you may not be asked to give the meanings of the Latin words, that I am going to discuss with you; however, it is imperative to understand that in order to develop your writing and specially reading skills you need to have a knowledge of certain popular terms, expressions and phrases that come from the Latina language. So, that is the purpose of this particular lecture.

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This definition provides a new angle on the long-vexing question of what our species from other life.

- a) Intensifies
- b) Aggregates
- c) Differentiates
- d) Deters
- e) Aggravates

So, as I told you in the beginning, I want to look at certain exercises related to text completion. So, let us move on to the first slide. Please take a look at it. This definition provides a new angle on the long vexing question of, what intensifies, aggregates,

differentiates, deters, aggravates. So, aggregates and aggravates, deters, intensifies differentiates, our species from other life. Now look at the choices; intensifies, are what intensifies are species from other life; intensify, what does it mean? Intensify, means to make more intense, deeper, stronger, to aggregate is to gather a mass or whole while or to differentiate means to be a distinctive feature. See a collection, aggregation so that is a group coming together, mass. Now when you are deterring you are trying to prevent something. It is a deterrent, the entire exercise prove to be a deterrent to our efforts. His letter was a deterrent to what you were trying to do. Aggravate means to exasperate, this is another word you should know exasperate or make worse; so that is aggravate.

So, if you are deterring something, you are trying to prevent something. Aggravate means to make worst or exasperate. The best choice here is differentiate. So, what differentiates our species from others? That is the answer. Remember the clue in the passages from the expression, from other life. Only differentiate and deter seem up to appear before from because there is a preposition from. To choose between these two we have to look at the sentence again. Now the definition, you know the definition of dash dash. A definition is more likely to differentiate then deterrent species. Therefore, differentiate is the best choice to pick. Let us look at the next exercise.

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Faith came upon him, over the years, without
any on his part to find it.

- a) Torpor
- b) Endeavor
- c) Precursor
- d) Rhetoric
- e) Relevance

Faith came upon him, over the years without any torpor, endeavor, precursor, rhetoric, relevance on his part to find it, which is the best? So, look at the word that or expression

that follows on his part. The best answer is endeavor; torpor is a noun; that means inactivity. So, it is an opposite of endeavor. Endeavor means effort. Endeavor is also purposeful or industrial undertaking. You have to endeavor in order to clear higher level competitive exams. So, that it requires a lot of endeavor, hardwork, industriousness deletions. Precursor is something that precedes and indicates the approach of something or someone.

Remember rhetoric is loud and confused and empty talk most of the time, that may not have been the origin, the etymology or when the word first came into existence, rhetoric. Maybe that was not the point, but rhetoric today when we say; politicians rhetoric, elections rhetoric, loud, empty talk with, while it is not too relevant to something to the matter at hand. Now you have to remember something finding requires efforts. So, torpor is not making an effort. You cannot even say relevance to, on his part. It just does not make sense and endeavor on its part the best choice.

From here, I will move on to discuss a couple of important names now. Now these words I have taken not exactly randomly. So, I am not going to give you exercise and you have to just listen to me. You have to take, you have to note down the words that I discuss with you.

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So, first word is billingsgate. Now this comes the entire please understand, the purpose of this exercise that we are going today. We are going to do today is make you

understand these isolated words that may appear from anywhere, you know I may not be able to create exact exercises here for you, the way we have been doing. So, far, but these are extremely important words and they are very frequently, we have found with a bio-research that they are frequently appearing words in most competitive exams, especially higher order. Now these names that I am going to do they the origin is someone's name.

Please understand somebody's name. So, these are like proper nouns. So, billingsgate is the first word. Now he may not be very familiar to you who was billing or what was billingsgate, but the meaning here is foul, abusive, bad language, scurrilous. So, those are the synonyms. So, while doing this exercise, I am going to give you the synonyms also; so billingsgate, foul, scurrilous, abusive.

It comes from billingsgate market in London, which was once upon a time especially in the sixteen-seventeenth centuries were a general market for fish and salt and pottery. So, you see common household goods, when we are talking about sixteen or seventeenth century London. The neighboring streets in billingsgate market, one well known for fish market. Now you know what happens in any fish market; people talk and shout very loudly and often resulting to abusive and foul language.

So, due to the, supposed vulgar language used by the fish mangers, billingsgate came to be known as a noun. Billingsgate it refers to course or foul language. So, it is almost like billingsgate language because it was fish market. People would shout, yell, abuse, yell at each other, abuse at each other's. So, the language itself has the markets name has come to be projected on the language. So, it is now a well established word in the English language; billingsgate, which means shouting, yelling and abusive language.

Bowdlerize; z e, you read something and you feel that this is not fit for your families reading. Suppose you are reading a magazine or a novel and it is kept in that part of your house where it can be accessible to everyone, people across ages in your family. You feel slightly uncomfortable with certain passages, certain detailing, certain descriptions and you do not want your family members to. You want that book, you want that material in your house, but you do not want people that stuff that you feel that is inappropriate for most people in your family. I am giving you a very common example. What do you do?

You perhaps try to strike it off or maybe even tear away, tear off certain passages or pages even. That practice is known as bowdlerized.

So, almost like censorship. Now if the word derives from the name of someone called Thomas Bowdler; b o w d l e r in 1818, he published the family Shakesphere. The name of the book was the family Shakesphere, it is an addition in which where he claims that those words and expressions are omitted which cannot with propriety be read aloud in a family. So, propriety is the word properness not property, but propriety appropriateness. So, I cannot read these words, this kind of language in my family or I do not want my family to get exposed to all these. So, I am giving you not exactly, do not confuse it with any abreacted version. It is the, it means to expurgate a book by leaving out or changing passages or words considered indelicate or offensive. So, that is the main because it is very commonly, frequently appearing word for most competitive exams.

So, expurgate is the word is the best synonym. Next word is shamanism which comes from the name of a French soldier and a patriot Nicola Chauvin. I am giving you the French pronunciation Chauvin. This is Chauvin, Nicola Chauvin it derives from his name and we are looking at the word chauvinism that comes from Nicola Chauvinism. He was a French soldier, patriot to a very intense degree. Now his name is the eponym of chauvinism which means traditionally, an excessive kind of nationalistic power, extremely patriotic, but now it has come to be used or come too referred to any kind of bigotry or bias. So, you are biased against certain people. So, you have chauvinistic tendencies. Best example is male chauvinism, there is a term called male chauvinism which means that men think that women are not there equally, chauvinism, having contemptuous attitude towards somebody. So, that is chauvinistic tendencies.

Next word is I wanted to discuss is Draconian, d r a c o n, draconian; Dracon is a proper, Draco is a proper noun and draconian is the adjective. Synonyms are cruel, harsh, rigid, stringent, exacting. Now what happens when someone is astringent and exacting in its turn and rigid? They are unbending, inflexible. The word comes from the legislature of Athens in ancient Greece. See most of the names that you are going to hear today, they are they come from Latin or Greek or Roman times or even Medieval Times in the British history also France. So, that is what we are looking at because you have to understand that language has its origin from all parts of the world and how it has come to become a part of the English language, because English language is so flexible.

So, adoptive; there is one thing about the English language that you have to remember. Scholars have done immense amount of research on this area, the flexibility of the English language. Every year thousands of words are added to the oxford dictionary, English language dictionary. I hope that you have with you that language dictionary with you and you are consulting it every time you sit and try to develop your vocabulary. You should understand that the edition that preceded the more recent edition had fewer words. So, dictionaries keep adding words and where do these words come from? They come from all over the world, people do research. They are not just there because somebody wants to add more pages to the dictionary, there is a reason.

So, Draco coming back to them, the Greek legislature from Athens, ancient Greece and he replaced the prevailing system of oral Law by a written code. So, one of the first known legislature in civilization and his written Laws were characterized by their harshness, codification of laws and therefore, the word came to be known as Draconian, referring to something which is very harsh, stern, which is extremely strict; so unforgiving rules or laws. So, in today's vocabulary or today's language, we say Draconian Law, Draconian Rules. Some of you may come across this word very often in newspapers. Government has introduced Draconian, management has introduced Draconian Rules and Laws; harsh and stringent.

Next is Fabian; f a b i a n. The Fabian society was named in honor of the Roman General Quintus Maximus Fabius, Quintus Fabius Maximus. He was also nicknamed the delayer; d e l a y e r. He would delay things and it means a slow and a step by step evolutionary change. There is a, if you go to the wiki then you will find something called the Fabian Society, you have to understand what its mottos were? What were the ideologies of the Fabian Society? And Quintus Fabius, Fabians strategy was to seek gradual victory against the enemies, particularly the Carthaginians that was what, these peoples were fighting against. And the Carthaginians were led by the great general Hannibal.

The Fabian strategy was to deal with the army of Hannibal through persistence, harassment and wearing the enemy down by attrition. You should know what is attrition is the process of reducing something, somebody's or something's strength or effectiveness through sustained attack or pressure rather than head on battles. So, there would not be face to face or head on confrontation or battles, there would be gradual process of reducing the opponent's strength or effectiveness. That is called Fabianism;

slow gradual wearing down of the opponent's strength, weakening the opponent not by head on confrontation, but by gradual pressure and sustained attack Fabianism.

Next one, galvanize all these words ending in i z e, they denote verbs. So, this is galvanize it has meaning to do something. What does it do? The word comes from the name of Louise Galvani, professor of physiology in Italy. He is called the father of animal electricity and his name has been persuaded in many terms associated with electricity. In our everyday speech we use the word to galvanize, in order to suggest, to electrify, to steer into action, to move, to set something in motion as if with an electric shock; to galvanize. Armies were galvanized, students were galvanized, that is a strong word to use for students, but sometimes the revolutions are galvanized by, people are galvanized through some kinds of steering speeches, galvanizing the movement, so to put into certain great speed and motion; that is to galvanize.

Next word is gerrymander, again a proper noun. Noun, word was created in reaction to a redrawing of Massachusetts that is in the USA, state senate election districts under governor L. Bridge Garry, this was the eighteenth century. Redrawing of the Massachusetts states senate election districts; redrawing the map in other words. Now this is a practice intended to establish a political advantage for a particular party by manipulating district boundaries. So, this is a political term; gerrymandering. The name Senators name was Garry and now we use sort of that manipulating of certain territories, redrawing the maps in order to get the voters from that particular district and to vote for. So, gerrymandering, resorting to manipulation in order to gain, political gains.

The next word I wanted to do with you by again extremely common Machiavellian, comes from Niccolo Machiavelli name, who was the fifteenth century Italian politician. Who wrote the famous book called the Prince, the best comparison I can give for the Prince is from our own culture is Kautilyas Arthashastr. The Prince is the handbook of government for the rulers of Machiavellis time. He set down the principles of taking an holding power and to sustain and retain power. Now the word Machiavelli is now used to mean cunning, crafty like we say Chanakya Neeti, the Machiavellian principles, lack of principles rather; so Machiavellian course cunning, crafty deceitful, although the original book was nothing more than setting down.

For example, the science of politics or par politics, but today it has come to denote much something that is much more sinister and cunning, conniving. So, synonyms for Machiavellian tendency practices are shiftiness, bad faith. Bad faith is quite philosophical in nature, but and faith someone who says something, does something else in order to control, to have power, duplicity. So, it is a very negative word.

Next word is Martinet. Martinet was the general in the army of King Lui, the fourteen in France. Now the weight has come to be understood today is a military task master where martinet was a general in the army. So, we use it for to suggest someone who is a task master not just in the army or in military condition, but anywhere else. So, even your professor can be a martinet, a stickler for detail, a stickler for discipline, rigid disciplinarian in any activity is a martinet. So, that is where the word comes from.

Next word that I wanted to do with you masochism, Leopold Wao Sacher Masoch, you do not have to concern yourself with the entire big long name, masochism; someone who enjoys inflicting pain on himself or herself. The name derives from Leopold Wao Sacher Masoch, who was an Austrian novelist. He described an abnormal mental condition in which a person derived pleasure in being debased and being abducted by someone he loved. So, the word is often used today to mean, to suggest a certain kind of mental anomaly which invites self torture.

A masochist is a person who enjoys tormenting himself. Difficult to but to believe perhaps, people who are very young to understand these kinds of psychological aberrations, but there are people in this world who take a lot of abuse from others and remain passive, literature is full of such characters; people who enjoy inflicting pain on themselves. It gives them a certain kind of joy, pleasure, a feeling that they are noble when they get, when they take lot of punishment for something.

Next word is, mausoleum, now King Mausoleum, Mausolus he was the King of Curia, which is a small country in Asia Minor. Now the maps have been redrawn, but King Mausolus came from Asia Minor. After his death his wife erected an enormous and beautiful tomb; t o m b, which was ranked as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. So, the word mausoleum is now used, not only for a large tomb, but for any large structure which looks very serious and gloomy, almost suggestive of a tomb. See it is not pronounced as tomb, t o m b, but tomb. So, any structure that suggests gloominess,

cheerlessness is like mausoleum. So, that is the word that we will. So, those are the synonyms; cheerless, gloomy almost like a tomb too way too serious.

Next one is, maverick easiest meaning is a non conformist. It comes from the name of a Texan Rancher, Texas a place in the US; a man whose surname was maverick, Samuel Maverick, a man who did not bother to brand his calves. Now see once upon a time there was practice to brand the cattle. You are talking about those ranchers here think of seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth century owners of ranches and this here to mark their cattle. So, he did not do what was the prevalent practice. So, therefore, the word now denotes anyone who does not follow the established norms, conventions and practices.

At first originally the word maverick was used only for unbranded calves, then the meaning was extended to apply to those who do not follow the common trend or do not follow the herd, person does not have a herd mentality. So, maverick, a politician, a businessman, an actor, an artist unpredictable, always person does not follow the dictates of society. You can be a maverick in your personal life as well, but it comes with a prize let me tell you. So to be unconventional and to break the rules is always a risky thing. So, you have to be, one has to be very confident in their own skin or in their own abilities to try to become a maverick. I can give you synonyms for maverick as recalcitrant, person with refractory temperament, refractory and unorthodox, unconventional.

Next word is mesmerized a very common word you get mesmerized by somebody's wealth, somebody's lifestyle, somebody's beauty, somebody's language. The word comes from Mesmer; F A Mesmer, he was a Viennese and he came from, he made an assertion that there existed a power which he called animal magnetism. So, at first the name mesmerism was given to this power and later hypnotism.

Today mesmerize means to hypnotize, but not literally always. It also means people getting carried away, fascinated to an extreme degree to extreme extent. You are mesmerized you may not be hypnotized, but you are so mesmerized that you want to become like that, you can do anything whatever that person. So, people for example, I can give you something very common usage, people becoming mesmerized by the politicians rhetoric, almost hypnotized.

Next word is pasquinade I will have to write it for you. Pasquinade, now there is a statue in Rome. During the sixteenth century, they lived near that statue, a tailor or a school master. His occupation varies according to various traditions. Now the name was Pasquino, Italian name ending with an O and he possessed a very sharp wit and an ability to compose epigrams, which are short pieces of works with very biting kind of edge to them. Now there was this statue, that I was telling you next near Pasquinos house.

On the statue pasquino has supposedly placed his poems, satirizing the events and personalities of his times. For this reason the statue was given the nick name Pasquino and the poems, versus came to be known as Pasquinos. In English we get the word pasquinade, something that is a biting vicious satire and another word is lampooned. So, pasquinade, satire and a lampoon, you can also use the word libelous, something which can get you into legal trouble, but you are making something you know extremely vicious, satirical comments about someone.

Next word is pinch neck; pinch neck n e c k synonyms are shoddy and spurious. The word is derived from the proper noun Chris and the person's name is Christopher Pinchneck. He was a London clockmaker. The term Pinchneck has entered the English language to signify the alloy Pinchneck created. Pinchbeck, it is not neck; it is pinchbeck sorry b e c k. So pinchbeck created because the alloy could not be used to replace with the alloy was used to replace gold so; that means, sort of creating a counter fit; a fake a sham, something which is not very genuine or authentic.

So, pinchbeck today is shoddy or spurious, but originally he was Christopher Pinchbeck was a clockmaker. He was very well known for making beautiful clocks, but he would add another substance, another metal to gold to replace gold; so something which was less genuine; so pinchbeck shoddy.

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Next word is rodomontade; ro do mon tade, Rodomont was a king and a major character in several epic poems. It means boosting, blustering, bragging, the king used to boost a lot about his achievements, his victories. So, rodomontade is someone who boosts blusters and brags a lot.

Next word is solecism; s o l e c i s m, synonyms are illogical, incongruous, absurd. So, it is solace kind of a statement illogical, which does not hold, which is absurd. The word is derived from the inhabitants the name of, inhabitants of Solae in Asia Minor.

Next word is spoonerism, think spoon spoonerism. The Reverend William A Spooner, who was a nineteenth century Reverend was known for his habit of transposing the first letters of words and phrases. In conversation he referred to the well known two wheeled vehicle as a well boiled icycle which means, a well oiled bicycle. So, he would rephrase or he would transpose syllables from one word to another. It means that someone who is who struggles to speak in the correct way not inappropriate, but has a tendency to transpose change certain syllables of a word. And what is the effect here? It is, you create a certain kind of comedy through your spoonerism. Revered Spooner would also, was also known for saying a camel to go through the knee of an idol. Now knee; k n e e of an idol what does that mean? See the bible tells you; it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle and he would say the knee of an idol; so replacing transposing words, letters here and there.

Next word is stoicism; it means fortitude, impassivity. Remember stoicism is an ancient Greek school of philosophy founded at Athens. The school thought that virtue, the highest good is based on knowledge and the wise live in harmony with the divine reason. So, this is what they thought and they, another very important teaching was that good are indifferent to the change of fortune and to pleasure and pain. So, to remain stoic unchanged.

Next word is sybarite; s y b a r i t e, synonyms are luxury loving, sensuous, almost decadent. A Sybarite was a native of Sybaris, an ancient Greek city in southern Italy. Sybarites were stereotypes of pleasure seekers and luxury seekers. Now these words sybaritism and sybarites, they in today's language, in today's world they connote sensualism and people who love luxuries.

Next word is thespian. Thespian means an actor. Thespis was the father of Greek tragedy, an actor until his time that is he lived sometime in the BC perhaps, fifth or sixth century BC. So, until his time dramatic presentations in Greece, consisted of singing via chorus, you know group of people coming on the next stage and singing, present a rendition of tragedy. The Thespis was supposed to have invented the role of the first actor by having a member of the chorus step out and carry on a dialogue with the rest of the chorus. So, Greek actor today we call actors, who are extremely good with the craft thespians especially in tragedies. Dilip Kumar, Indian actor was known as thespian, Laurence Olivier in England was known as a thespian. So, legendary actors thespians both.

Next word is titian; t i t i a n, it is an adjective formed from the name of the great venetian painter Italian painter, Tiziano Vecellio. So, you have to just know the word titian. The word titian describes the color of hair that, he like to paint, variously described as urban or bright golden with a reddish turn, tinch reddish brown. So, that is the name of a color it has come to suggest name of a color.

So, thank you very much and in our next class, I will start with certain important words that have come to become a part of the English language, but which are originally from the Latin language.

Thank you very much.