

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Module - 08

Lecture - 38

Suffixes & Reference words

Good morning. So, today's talk is going to be on suffixes and reference words. We have been talking about developing vocabulary and affixes that is suffixes and prefixes collectively known as so, today we are going to do suffixes and also reference words. Now reference word is first I will talk about reference words which I am going to do in the next half of today's lecture. First I will begin with suffixes and I will define suffixes also for those who are not sure about it. Reference words and we are going to do reference words lots of them today in the section second half or second section of our lecture, but to explain what these are, these are words which have come to become a very important part of our day to day language.

Of course by day to day language I mean higher and advanced level of language. These words have their roots in foreign languages, yes and we have been doing quite a bit of that as well, but today I am going to look at certain words and expressions that have their origin from religion, from various religious texts from literary text and biblical sources, as well as medicine and other professions. We may not realize we may never realize that many of the words which we use in our everyday language and communication they have their origin in something that we are not remotely knowledgeable or aware of. So, that is what we are going to do today. I am going to draw your attention to some of the important words that may appear on a frequently, that do appear frequently and they may appear for you as well in your competitive exams and what is their origin, what is their meanings and how they are used in contemporary contexts and usage.

So, suffixes. What are suffixes? suffixes are those letters group of letters. It can be a letter or a group of letters added at the end of a word which makes a new word.

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Now, if you look at the list of these words. And I am going to give you the meanings of these words these are just examples. This is not of course, a definitive list or suffixes these are examples of certain suffixes words which use, ate, as a suffix. What happens when you use a suffix is a new word is most often a different word class from the original word. So, you can say to consume something that is a verb and consummate becomes an adjective that is what you mean by changing the class.

Regular is an adjective regularly becomes an adverb, you have changed the class of the original word. And if you have your Cambridge dictionary, if you have your oxford dictionary advance English language dictionary, you will find at the end of those books there are several pages, it runs into several pages and gives you the suffixes the and the word categories. It is a very useful tool that you have in your hands, these 2 dictionaries I have given you I have advised you to keep looking these dictionaries from the very first lecture. So, please refer to them as you do today's lecture as you attend today's class and see how useful and how interesting suffixes can be. You change the class of the original word and also add something more to it add a new meaning to it.

So, first suffix that we are going to look at of course, I am not going to give you the list of entire suffixes, I am I cannot do that all the possible existing suffixes, but only some that are important from exam point of view. So, ameliorate it is used as an adjective ending, ameliorate the first word here with something is to make better to improve, to make better to improve that is the meaning. You will find this word very commonly used. Next word is attenuate and attenuate is to make thin to weaken, attenuated. Finances that attenuated. Consummate is to bring to the highest point, it is as verb it means to bring to the highest point to bring to fulfillment to complete, as an adjective it means complete in every detail perfect a consummate artist. So, James Cambrian is a consummate artist, Manirathnam is a consummate artist. So, that is how we use and out and out someone who is very particular about details attention to detail sense perfect.

Desiccate look at the spelling d e s i double c a t e. It is to dry up dehydrate desiccated lips of a traveler in a dessert. Disparate it is not desperate you are desperate when you want something very badly, desperate to get the ticket to the latest show in town. Disparate means unlike different dissimilar bringing together of disparate elements. So, look at the spelling d i s p a r a t e. Unequal different dissimilar we often say this building was constructed by using disparate elements from all over the place. This the faculty is it constitutes disparate kind of people, not all are equal not all are similar though they may work together. So, this is just an example a team may comprise of disparate elements.

Importunate is urgent in demand insistent your importunate insistence on getting the work done that is why we spoiled it because of your importunate insistence. So, urgent in demand annoying. So, it is urgent in and in demand very urgent you have to have it now.

So, it is importunate the hotel guests and his importunate behavior, you know he was always I want it now here right away, these are very annoying people next suffix is e s c e.

The Latin word ending e s c e r e means to begin to or to become. English adjectives and nouns suffixes are accent and essence. For example, you have effervesce to begin to boil over to bubble, and then you say effervescent, effervescent personality boiling over bubbling ebullient. So, someone who is very chirpy bright maybe not the exact meaning chirpy and bright vivacious. Often we call teenagers, a teenage girl an effervescent. She is effervescent on screen bubbling very chirpy. Effervescence is bubbling and excitement. So, one is an adjective effervescent effervescence is a noun whenever you have something ending in s e n c e becomes a noun. It is excitement whenever something ends with m e n t, it is again a noun. So, effervescence whenever anything ends with s c e n c e, it is a noun whenever a word ends with s c e n t, then it is an adjective.

Next word is coalesce again a very popular word with examiners to grow together. Everything coalesce together was brought together, very high sounding word and used in very knish kind of situation, look it up what does it mean to come together to grow together yeah. So, coalesce, I wanted to look at another suffix, f y words ending in f y and that becomes the verb. So, pure is an adjective purify is a verb, deity in an adjective deify is to make a some someone a god of deity is god.

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But when you deify someone what are you doing you are making someone giving someone a god like station or kind of a status. So, f y ending in f y to make a god of the exalt someone to that level rectify is to make something right correct or adjust. So, rectification rectify is to make something right, the entire idea to make something yeah. So, it is verb.

Stultify is to make something look foolish to cause someone or something to appear foolish or ridicules. So, that is stultify think of a kind of a popular culture that you have kind of the music, the run of the mill song and dance situations with pots and pans all over. So, that becomes you know stultifying kind of situation foolish and ridicules. Next word is edify e d i f y f y this is to up lift to enlighten to enlighten and to up lift to make something better edification is the noun.

Next suffix is i v e, i v e we say furtive for example, furtive which is stealthily which is secret which is like a thief. So, furtive glances, furtive look, very secret for whatever reason. Enter the house in a furtive manner. Now palliative, palliative is given here is like a cloche, it is acting to sod pain or distress temporarily alleviating. So, palliative sometimes we even call or name some certain kind of medicine is palliative.

A palliative care scudding pain, but we can only reduce the pain. Some I have words ending in i v e can also be taken as nouns alternative, conservative, diminutive. So, they not everything that ends in i v e. So, therefore, that is the idea please be very careful not everything is what it appears to be or seems to be there are always exceptions, alternative to this is not an adjective, but a noun a girl of diminutive size is not an adjective, but a noun and my parents are pretty conservative in their approach, it is a noun yeah. It is not an adjective.

We have words ending in a c I o u s, or I c I o u s audacious for example, what audacity? audacity is your noun and audacious behavior. Audacious comes from audacity. It means someone who has the nerve the courage to do something. It can be used both in positive, positive and negative word. Voracious again a c I o u s having a huge capacity for something, voracious reader is, I would like to think of myself as a voracious reader someone who likes to read a lot who consumes lots of books, and you also say voraciously, voracious appetite someone who likes to eat a lot like a gluten. So, voracious is something enormous big you do not call someone a voracious person just

like that huge person. So, voracious person, no, it has to follow up with a certain kind of a noun you have an appetite or you have a read appetite for reading or something like that appetite for food appetite for reading appetite for life poetically speaking. So, you have to have that kind of a noun there it is an adjective.

Now, we have another set of suffixes ending in a r c h monarch for example, right monarch is someone who rules and you also have a r c h y, let us think of anarchy oligarchy. So, r words ending in arch and archy these are suffixes that suggest rulers and rule. So, monarchy anarchy oligarchy, when do you have anarchy when there is lack of rule disorder everyone, is out on the streets and protesting and there is no one to control things go out of control that is a anarchy all over oligarchy rule by the chosen few. Maybe the richest may be the most intellectual maybe the most domineering the oligarchy.

We have next suffix c i d e, c i d e. So, Latin suffix it has origin in the Latin language and it stands for kill and killer. So, we get a number of words like regicide, killing of your see this is the suffix, c i d e you kill your king you are regicide, when you kill your father you are patricide, this is an act of patricide and fratricide is when you kill your brother you know fraternity is the noun.

So, parricide, regicide, fratricide and you also have genocide which is wiping out national ethnic or religious groups. This the word came into existence during the Nazi war crimes during the second world war and the years that preceded. So, I am sure most of you know the history to know something about the hollow cost if you do not know please look it up these things may appear for the reading passages. So, genocide homicide of course, killing of one's fellow man. So, you have the cop here in several Hollywood films, you know homicide detective he investigates killing of people.

You have words ending in p h i l e. Look at this suffix p h i l e comes from the Greek word p h i l o s, philo that is loving. So, when you are a bibliophile the way it is written, you are a lover of books, bibilio books you are bibliophile, and you are a lover of books Francophile a lover of France or all things French. So, people who have those exotic kinds of taste they may call them or European taste, they may call themselves you know I like everything that is French or that is English. So, you become an anglophile, anglophin or we also have a word such as indophile very often you find there are so

many people from across the world who are very fond of all things Indians and concerning India. So, indophile. Anglophile all things concerning the English speaking part of the world could be the US Canada and also England of course, So, p h i l e is suffix standing for loving.

We have suffix ending r y words ending in r y. So, you have words such as bigotry, b i g o t r y, this is extreme intolerance. Yeah generally we say religious bigots, cannot tolerate people of other different religions. We have gimmickry, now gimmickry is something that is very interesting, you are resorting to lot of gimmickry, things you know it is used in a very shallow way. So, a gimmick is a way a shallow way to attract attention, to gain more eye balls or to gain more acceptance. So, you resort to using some certain gimmicks.

You have a word like gadgetry which is use or collection of mechanical devices, all the gadgetry that I see here it has led to nothing. We also have another interesting word ending in r y, mimicry which is the act of mimicking or militating. And then you have a word like ribaldry which means using coarse or indecent language Shakespeare was known for using lot of ribaldry in his plays therefore, he had to be if you may recall we have talked all already about someone who was very fond of removing the objectionable language from Shakespeare's play and we have a term for that bordelaire, the act of removing anything that is coarse or indecent of course, what is coarse or indecent varies from culture to culture and time to time. What was considered in the sense 50 years ago may not be maybe very acceptable today.

We have a man who does a job kind of thing. So, we have a r y words ending in a r i y. So, word like antiquary one who studies ancient things. Antiquary and we have some word like lapidary, one who cuts precious stones very exotic very sort of uncommon kinds of works and antiquary and lapidary. we have words ending in a r d. So, we have something like dastard which means one who is cowardly, dastard in war, and we have a word like sluggard one who lies and does nothing he is lazy idle person. So, sluggard, we have e r very common suffix many words end in e r advisor broker amateur, amateur is one someone who participates for the love and not for love of something and not for money. So, amateur musician amateur singer amateur dancer basically originally it was used to suggest someone who participates for the love of the sport. Now amateur has

come to include a number of other situations and events also not for money, but for the love of something.

We have a suffix, i t e. So, we have something like anchorite, one who withdraws from the world, he becomes the religious recluse, a hermit like situation the anchorite. Oh it is given here word ending in i t e. We have list of diminutives and here I have given you such words now these suffixes are c l e, c u l e, l e. The Latin form is or Latin group of letters is c u i u s. Corpuscle a little body, minute particle a body sight corpuscle. Homunculus, a little man dwarf manikin not manikin as in you find in stores, but manikin m a n i kin, man i kin. So, m a n i k i n, a dwarf. Miniscule very small infinitesimal. So, that is very diminutive very small. You have nozzle, nozzle of a jug, jar a little nose pout of a hose. We have now all these words ending in c l e, c u l u s, c o l e, these are they suggest lack of height small size.

We have words ending in a v l e and i v l e showing or capability of fitness. So, you have fusible which is practicable, we have feasible which is workable, we have expugnable, which is unable to be out fought, unconquerable it is impregnable. So, you know this job cannot be we can these people are this corporate is so huge humongous. It is absolutely inexpugnable, that is they are unable to we are unable to be out fought relentless. So, this is the way suppose we have suffixes that end in o r y words that end in with suffixes o r y, a r y. So, all these are several we will do some small by the end, by the time come to the end of this course, we will practice more.

So, from here let me take me to the reference words, words from a variety of fields. So, the first word that I wanted to do with you is alienation which is so commonly used. It comes from the word alienate, alienate is a verb, alienation is a noun. It has it is roots in literature philosophy psychology poetry and personal narratives. And where people talk about universal problems of identity and alienation. So, this is a very frequently occurring word, you have to look it up it occurs in several kinds of context. Man is alienated from his style surroundings, you are surrounded by people, but you still feel alone that is a very simple meaning, but it is a philosophical word and therefore, it has several contexts several meanings it is a multilayered multi-faceted word. So, please look it up.

There is a word called babel, b a b e l. It is also the title of a movie and if you have seen the movie, you could know the babel in the movie there are disparate group of people brought whose life intersects they may not meet each other one another, but their life intersects each other in a most tenuous way. So, babel is what a confused mix of voices, you go to a restaurant in the peak during the peak hours and you hear so, many voices you can say babel of conversation.

So, many voices mix of voices different people, you do not really understand you just hear lot of noises. So, babel of noises is the way you use it, babel can also mean figurative noise or conversation, it comes from the biblical tower of babel story, where god confuse the builders of the tower to the ideas that people were trying to build a tower to heaven. So, god did not want that to happen and these builders were given these workers were given different languages. So, that is the they that is how several languages started that is the origin of languages, people started speaking in different languages no one could understand or follow one another or each other there is utter confusion babel of voices, and then nothing can happen work gets unfinished undone.

Next word is balkanization; it describes a phenomenon or situation when a country breaks up into 2 or more smaller countries. So, we talk about balkanization of nations. So, certain European countries breaking into several smaller units, yeah it is a very political kind of a word, but then we also use it in several other context balkanization perhaps in corporate context perhaps in political context, but it has come to become a part of our language. Now there is a word called blitzkrieg now this is interesting, blitzkrieg is an intense and brutal military campaign that is how it originated that the origin of the word. The noun blitzkrieg means a very quick violent and intimidating attack by one armed force against another enemy, but it also always almost always refers specifically to the German military offence during the second world war, the word blitzkrieg means rapid attack in the German language from blitz or lightning. It is paired with Krieg or war the blitzkrieg wage by German on England in 1940 and 1941 is often referred to as the blitz.

So, rapid attack lighten, lighting attack or lightening attack, attack the way you know with swiftness and speed of lightening. So, remember these words blitzkrieg alienation that I was already talking about you know these are about heroes or rather non-heroes who lost in the troubled world outside them and can find no identity blitzkrieg, how you

know we often say blitzkrieg of words blitzkrieg of information, but you should also know the origin otherwise you would not be able to attempt or contextualize it and you actually see the word written in front of you.

There is an interesting expression called curates egg. I would like you to look it up curate's egg, part good part bad, part good part bad. How was your day today, not nothing great? Just like curate's egg, this has become a part of everyday vocabulary. I will also do a couple of idioms with you I have not done actual idioms. So, far. So, I will be doing that as part of developing your vocabulary. We have a word like diaspora d i s p o r a diaspora is a large group of people with a similar heritage or homeland, who has since moved out to places all over the world. We often say Indian diaspora right; the term comes from an ancient Greek word meaning to scatter about. So, people are scattered about, this is what happens to diasporic people, they scatter from their homeland to pi to places across the globe spreading their culture, they grow go the bible refers to the diaspora of Jews exiled from Israel by the Babylonians, but the word is now also used more generally to describe many large migrations of refugees' languages or cultures.

We have another word, which is called doppelganger, literary generally Diaspora is spelt with the capital d this is the more or less a doppelganger a literary kind of a word, someone who looks spookily like someone else. You find someone how resembles you a lot not just in habit and temperament, but also looks like you, is not a twin a doppelganger spooky, think of a movie like departed Martin Scorsese is departed starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon. They look alike, they act a like in different situations both them are moles. So, if you are aware of that each person becomes another's doppelganger.

Now, originally this was used to refer to a kind of ghost, the word is German is of German origin and literally meant double walker as in a ghost or shadow of yourself. There is another word called doyen, d o y e n, doyen is an expert. Sunil Gavaskar the doyen of Indian cricket. In expert is specialized area that the others do not know as much about. Doyen is distinguished in a way that earns leadership status as indicated by the words origin in in French word deien, d e i e n it has it is origin in French. A woman who is an expert in doyenne d o y e double n e. So, doyen doyenne. So, it is like a person who

just leads the way commands everyone doyen. You take a very high respect to someone when you use the word doyen.

Another word very interesting is dybbuk, d y double b u k. It is Jewish in origin Hebrew, in Jewish folklore and popular belief this dybbuk is an evil spirit which enters into a living person and noose into his or her soul causes mental illness, talks through the person's mouth represents a separate and alien personality and this becomes a dybbuk. Today it is also pejorative or even humorously used. We have a word again a French word an eminence grace, a person who exercises power or influence in certain areas without holding an official position. The person may not be really the college principal, but here he could be just being an assistant, but he has so, much of power in the entire situation in the on in the organization, that he or she does not really need to hold an official position regardless of a person's position there is lot of power or influence. So, we use the word it is a French word eminence grise.

We have a word like ex cathedra, which is with the full authority of the office. So, that letter has been signed or sanctioned or the proposal has been sanctioned ex cathedra with the full authority of the office there is a word called frisson.

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Which I have come across quite frequently nowadays, frisson or frisson if you want to call it the Latin route is friseur like fridge to be cold f r i g e r e and while a frisson is

shivery in a sense shiver, but it is mostly used to denote or suggest thrills, a thrilling kind of shiver yeah, you read something and you felt frisson shivered with thrill.

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Furies, I am also going to do something called hubris, I will as well write it. So, furies in Greek and roman mythology, the furies were the female spirit is of justice and vengeance this is important vengeance, they are the angry one's angry spirit is known for perusing people who had caused some devastation or murdered family members, the furies punished their victims by driving them mad. So, furies very high flying literary kind of a word. There is a word call gaucherie not grocery, but gaucherie g a u c h e r i e. It is the quality of being rustic or gosh awkward person. We were completely charmed by the gaucherie of that lady, she did not know how to behave in a particular situation, but we still calm down her naïve her naïve her naivete and innocent quite charming. It can also be used in negative way, gaucherie someone who is rustic gauche who is unsophisticated.

There is a word called gauntlet, though in the gauntlet or run the gauntlet. It comes from the old French word from glove, which was thrown down as a symbol of a challenge. Running the gauntlet is an old military form of punishment in where the victim runs between 2 rows of men wearing armored gloves who beat him as he pass passes through the lines, if someone makes you run the gauntlet. They would not really strike you with armor gloves, but they will probably make you do something miserable, comes from

military term, you have to run through the gauntlet, you run through 2 rows of men wearing the gloves they will beat you up. If someone makes you run through the gauntlet it means you have to go through that entire tedious process of getting something, often we say bureaucracy makes you run through the gauntlet makes you feel miserable.

There is a word called gestalt, g e s t a l t, very literary it has it basically means 2 or more parts like figure and ground and that are integrated together that we perceive them as one object. Perception from oneness from many if the basis of gestalt. It is it is derived from the German philosophy meaning form or shape, that is the idea of perception form or shape. So, many things, but looking at them in your perception becomes like they are almost one. So, that is gestalt the area of gestalt psychology was developed in 1912 focusing on various aspects of a person and how they combine into a whole various aspects combine into a whole that affects a person that persons relationship with his or her environment. So, that is gestalt philosophy. It is often used in education also, how an aspect of environment influence your the way a child or a person responds to education.

Huber is so furies and hubris. Hubris is excess of pride or confidence it is again from Greek mythology where it means excessive pride, violating the bounds set for humans. So, humans should not have that much pride. That is the idea Greek gods punish they get offended when humans display. So, much of pride in their accomplishments. So, the hubris, if there is there are hubris they are punished by the gods. So, we just say over the top self-confidence. Another word from theatre is mise en scene. Putting a scene together the physical setting of an action. In the theatre world and that is where it comes from mise en scene is the way props and scenery and design are arranged. In French mise en scene is it means setting an on the stage, from mise or putting or placing the stage of a theatre. So, the mise en scene in the class room if you want to extend the analogy to that, mise en saw was set very theatrical very cinematic. And then there are a couple of words which come from the world of medicine as I told you in the beginning. So, you have a word like proliferate this word has original meaning it is derivation from biology and medicine. Now it means gates are wide open proliferation of so, many courses proliferation of engineering colleges. So, many colleges all over.

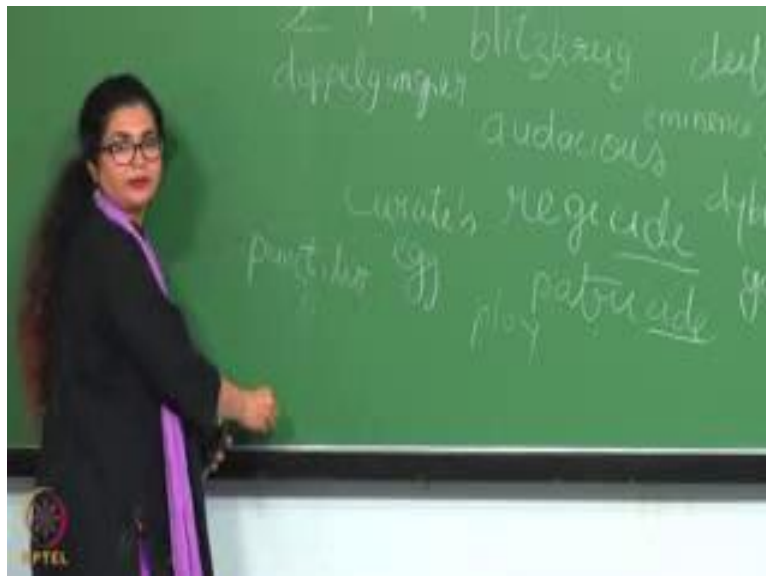
And again another word that comes from the world of medicine is syndrome. Syndrome s y n d r o m e. It means running together concurrence a cycle of symptoms or manifestations that occur together. You have also have words like viable v i a b l e that

referred once referred only to the chances of one an organism survival, but their use as escalated and proliferated. Now it is used the word is used prolifically. It is a synonym for durability and even success and survival.

I will give you 1 list of now some popular words, which I have picked randomly not really any connection with anything, but I thought these could be of help and use to you. So, there is a word called spectrum, spectrum in the right context means the whole range of scope. It is used often with broad or wide broad spectrum of antibiotics. They include a lot there is a word called tendentious meaning promoting a certain tendency. So, from tendency noun we get tendentious adjective promoting a certain tendency, biased it could be biased and controversial.

There is a word like ploy again very commonly used could see through the ploy related to the word employ and is used is a synonym for device tactic or maneuver yeah. So, maneuvering something a ploy, and there is a word like burgeon b u r g e o n, it means to bud almost like proliferate. I have already given you the diminutives and there I have mentioned manikin m i m a n i k i n it is a small man small in height a pigmy, you know it often is used to denote a skeletal model of something.

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There is a word punctilio, pun cti lio, what does it mean. It is adopted from italian punctilio. It is a small point. It is a nice point of behavior or etiquette, a nice detail of procedures about which someone is very finicky. So, very particular about a finicky

about niceties, punctilious means being attentive to small details, very fastidious very meticulous. It depends on you whether you like the word if it is used for you, punctilious person a punctilious professor fastidious meticulous very finicky. Perfectionist are always not very well tolerated, if you are fastidious and you want people around you to be perfect and attentive to small details, you may not be very popular, but the job gets done perfectly. So, it is up to you.

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There are words like immolate and immolation. They come from the Latin word mola m o l a, a milestone. Molars the name of the grinding teeths, it also derives from the same word. The Latin word mola came to mean the thing ground a kind of grain or meal. So, that is how it originated in accordance with the prescribed ritual roman priest sprinkle mola, finely ground grain with a portion of salt over a sacrificial animal head. So, over the over a period of time over centuries the word has become literally the act of sacrifice applied to sacrificing yourself. So, immolate oneself. So, thank you very much with this we come to end of today's class. We will continue with more interesting words subsequent classes in our subsequent classes.

Thank you.