

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Week - 08
Lecture - 39
Vocabulary: Uncommon Words-1

Good morning, we will continue with some practical exercises and while trying to develop vocabulary and here is the title of the lecture, of today's lecture and I am going to do some uncommon words. See generally I tell you that these words are so common you find it in your every day reading although it may be higher order reading, advanced level reading, but you do come across these words.

Today's lecture is all about those words which are not so common, which you do not find in even in higher order usage, they very difficult to come across therefore, it may happen that sometimes test takers may try to use these words as well in order to test your vocabulary. So, we will begin with plenty of exercises and then we will have a discussion as we do usually.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:25)

- **Bibulous**
 - (a) Addicted to drink
 - (b) Talkative
 - (c) Well-dressed
 - (d) Frothy
- **Bight**
 - (a) Pestilence
 - (b) Hoist
 - (c) Bay
 - (d) Small village

So, let us start, first slide please take look at it. The word is bibulous and your choices are addicted to drink, b – talkative, c - well dressed, d – frothy. Next word is bight choices are a - pestilence, b - hoist, c - bay and d - small village.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:50)

- **Bilboes**
 - (a) Posters
 - (b) Vegetables
 - (c) Fetters
 - (d) Elbows
- **Bittern**
 - (a) Condiment
 - (b) Marsh bird
 - (c) Part of a harness
 - (d) Northern tree

Next, bilboes is the word and choices are a – posters, b - vegetables, c - fetters, d - elbows. Bittern now this is not a miss spelt word it is not bitten it is a bittern choices a - condiment, b - mash bird, c - part of a harness, d - northern tree.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:18)

- **Blatant**
 - (a) Futile
 - (b) Depressing
 - (c) Tardy
 - (d) Noisily obtrusive
- **Breviary**
 - (a) Authority
 - (b) Prayer book
 - (c) Testa-ment
 - (d) Cage

Next word blatant is it futile, depressing, tardy, noisily obtrusive, you should know the meanings of other words also, what is tardiness what is futility what is obtrusiveness. Next word breviary – authority, prayer book, test-ament, cage.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:49)

- **Caesura**
 - (a) Surgical operation
 - (b) Aria
 - (c) Rhythmic break
 - (d) Ripping sound
- **Caitiff**
 - (a) Defendant in a lawsuit
 - (b) Person of bad character
 - (c) Judicial officer
 - (d) Hunting dog

Next word is caesura is it a - surgical operation, b - aria, c - rhythmic break, d - ripping sound. Now you have to understand what is an aria a r i a, please understand these are difficult to understand words or come across words not difficult to understand, but difficult to come across words ask yourself what are these. Next is caitiff c a i t i f f, is a defendant in a lawsuit, person of bad character, judicial officer, d - hunting dog.

(Refer Slide Time: 03:34)

- **Cantilever**
 - (a) Suspension bridge
 - (b) Supporting bracket
 - (c) Instrument for prying open
 - (d) Mathematical curve
- **Capitulate**
 - (a) Repeat
 - (b) Execute
 - (c) Summarize
 - (d) Surrender

Next is cantilever - suspension bridge, supporting bracket, instrument for prying open and mathematical curve.

Next is capitulate - capitulate is a – repeat, b – execute, c – summarize, d – surrender, you do have a word like recapitulate I would like you to look up the meanings of capitulate and recapitulate.

(Refer Slide Time: 04:09)

- **Carapace**
 - (a) Sea snail
 - (b) Gaudy banner
 - (c) Animal shell
 - (d) Medieval carriage
- **Careen**
 - (a) Fondle
 - (b) Lurch
 - (c) Decay
 - (d) Secure
- **Catalytic**
 - (a) Accelerating an action
 - (b) Destroying
 - (c) Ineffectual
 - (d) Nonparticipating

Next carapace is it sea snail, gaudy banner, animal shell, medieval carriage. Next word careen is it fondle, lurch, decay, secure; careen is a verb look at all the choices given here they are all verb choices they are not noun choices. Catalytic we have done suffixes and this is an example of a word which is turn into an adjective by using suffix the i c. So, what is it? Accelerating an action, destroying, ineffectual, nonparticipating. So, accelerating is something that accelerates an action, if you remove an action then I am just written accelerating then you get four adjectives here. Please note these categories also. At times it is beneficial to understand the word categories if the headword is adjective then you can rest assure that the choices given is also going to be an adjective, the problem arises when the test or taker of the examiner provides you serves you with something choices which are all belonging to the same word category. So, that may, there may be and that is the way it happens.

(Refer Slide Time: 06:04)

- **Celibate**
 - (a) Unmarried
 - (b) Leafy
 - (c) Heavenly
 - (d) Joyous
- **Cenobite**
 - (a) Individualist
 - (b) Beginner
 - (c) Monk living communally
 - (d) Empty tomb
- **Cenotaph**
 - (a) Wax engraving
 - (b) Empty tomb
 - (c) Optical illusion
 - (d) Inscription on a statue

So, you have to be careful about all these things celibate – unmarried, leafy, heavenly, joyous, you have a word like celebrate which has a different meaning, different spelling. And the next word is cenobite – individualist, beginner, monk living communally and empty tomb. Next is cenotaph is it a wax engraving, empty tomb, optical illusion or inscription on a statue.

See you are getting words which have some sort of spiritual and religious background also. So, magress, words can come from any sphere of knowledge or activity. Many of these words belong to the oriental or western spirituality. So, monks living communally empty tombs inscription on a statue or a tomb all these are very nish kind of words.

Therefore I cannot stress enough on the necessity to be very consistent in your approach to develop your vocabulary and grammar it is not going to happen one or two months before, once course is not giving to give you all the words you need. People who complete for higher order exams where lot is at, at stake they have to work very hard and sometimes I do not want to discourage, but first attempt may not be enough. So, this course should be taken as a supplement to what you have been doing all these months or all these years and I am sure that then you will find it really beneficial.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:11)

- **Chaffer**
 - (a) Haggle
 - (b) Vex
 - (c) Small bird
 - (d) Sip
- **Chine**
 - (a) Kiln
 - (b) Succession of bell sounds
 - (c) Part of the face
 - (d) Backbone
- **Chitterling**
 - (a) Trifling expense
 - (b) Small child
 - (c) Part of small intestine
 - (d) Smattering

Next word chaffer it is not chaffer, please do not confuse with it the driver the man who drives the car chaffer is a - haggle, choices are b - vex, c - small bird, d - sip and what is vex; I am not saying a vex its vex what does it mean? Next word chine is it a kiln succession in a bell sounds, part of the face or backbone, and then you have a word like chitterling is it a trifling expense, small child, part of small intestine, smattering.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:54)

- **Cinnabar**
 - (a) Bright-red mineral
 - (b) Spice
 - (c) Tropical fruit
 - (d) Bird of bright plumage
- **Codicil**
 - (a) Addition to a will
 - (b) Minute particle
 - (c) Legal brief
 - (d) Unwritten code
- **Comestibles**
 - (a) Odds and ends
 - (b) Superior products
 - (c) Food
 - (d) Companions

Look at the next slide, cinnabar: a - bright-red mineral, b - spice, c - tropical fruit, d - bird of bright plumage. Next word codicil: a - addition to a will, b - minute particle; will

is not where there is a will there is a way. We are talking about legal document here. So, minute particle legal brief unwritten code, now we are talking about we are looking at legalese is a legal (Refer Time: 09:36) look at the variety that test takers may come up with the domains the variety of range the wide range of domains that test take is may come with. Next is comestibles: a - odds and ends, b - superior products, c - food, d - companions.

(Refer Slide Time: 09:56)

- **Comity**
 - (a) Beauty
 - (b) Courtesy
 - (c) Council
 - (d) Association
- **Commensurate**
 - (a) Acquainted with
 - (b) Certain
 - (c) Required
 - (d) Proportionate
- **Conative is relating to**
 - (a) an attempt to perform an action
 - (b) a figure in solid geom-etry
 - (c) a type of evergreen
 - (d) Symbiotic existence

And next is comity: a – beauty, b – courtesy, c – council, d - association. Commensurate: a - acquainted with, b – certain, c – required, d – proportionate. Conative is relating to - an attempt to perform an action, a figure in solid geom-etry, c - a type of evergreen forest and d - symbiotic existence.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:31)

- **Concatenation**
 - (a) Resonance
 - (b) Smugness
 - (c) Hollowness
 - (d) Linking together
- **Concomitant**
 - (a) Half-asleep
 - (b) Superfluous
 - (c) Multifarious
 - (d) Accompanying
- **concordat**
 - (a) Document
 - (b) Agreement
 - (c) Treaty of peace
 - (d) Endorsement

Next is concatenation, choices are a – resonance, b – smugness, c – hollowness, d - linking together. Next word concomitant, a - half asleep, b - superfluous, c - multifarious, d - accompanying. Next word concordat, a – document, b – agreement, c - treaty of peace, d - endorsement.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:02)

- **Contemn**
 - (a) Struggle with
 - (b) Convict
 - (c) Mar
 - (d) Despise
- **Contiguous**
 - (a) Contemporary
 - (b) Constricted
 - (c) Infections
 - (d) Adjacent

Next word contemn, if this remember please note this is not contemn, it is contemn: a - struggle with, b - convict, c - mar, d - despise. Next word contiguous: a – contemporary, b – constricted, c - infections, d - adjacent.

Let us discuss the answers. Now for the next couple of minutes I will be discussing the answers with whatever we have done if you would like to open your dictionaries please do so.

So bibulous was our first choice bibulous was our word choices or a - addicted to drink, b – talkative, c - well dressed and d - frothy; bibulous is addicted drink liquor. Your; he was in a bibulous mood, he was in a bibulous state it is an uncommon word and it may not be used in everyday speech or language; however, it may appear these kinds of words may appear for your exams.

Next word was bight we were given four choices – pestilence, hoist, bay, small village; the answer is a bay c – bay, bay as a stretch of water geographical entity. Just remember the first word that we did bilboes it describes something that is highly absorbent, a bilboes person is someone who likes to drink alcohol. So, that is now the original word the way it is started you know with Latin origin, it was the [FL] which means which meant to drink. If you look at a word like imbibe English language has a word called like imbibe which often means to consume something, I imbibe lot of knowledge that is to soaking absorb consume, from there we get the word bibulous see how words develop and travel.

Bibulous when they supplied to people it means likes to drink alcohol. So, you should not confuse it with someone who imbibes or soaks up information or understands ideas quickly and bight - bight is a broad way formed by an indentation in the shore line. So, it is a bight. Our next word was bilboes and choices were posters vegetables fetters and elbows. Bilboes the best answer is c - fetters chains and iron bar with sliding shackles, formally used for confining a prisoners ankles. So, it is a fetters, we often say unfetter womens day, womens have finally broken the shackles and unfetter themselves. So, this the also, this is bilboes. A slightly old (Refer Time: 14:27) word it meaning an iron bar with sliding shackles it was used for confining a prisoners ankles. The next word was bittern it is a marsh bird, bird a special kind of a bird which is found in the marshes, you can say its biology or botany, botanical kind of a word.

Next word was a blatant - we were given four choices futile, depressing, tardy, noisily obtrusive; now blatant we often come across the word blatant like “he blatant disregard for all my efforts”, it is like point blank we often say blatant refusal. So, blatant is a

direct no holes bar and the best meaning here is noisily obtrusive. You know you do not have make any bones about something that is blatant. Breviary we are given four choices authority, prayer book, testament, cage. The answer is b prayer book. So, book of prayers to be recited daily by certain (Refer Time: 16:03) members of religious orders and blatant coming back to blatant or going back blatant rather than blatant act certain remember we are doing that we trying to hide them. So, the origin is from the Latin word blat error which means to chatter, to chatter to gossip and blatant is a synonym of flagrant - flagrant is a synonym of blatant, f l a g r a n t.

Antonym would be secreted, let us see what is a caesura, we were given a choices surgical operation aria rhythmic break ripping sound the best answer is rhythmic break, caesura is a pause or an interruption in musical notation caesura is the break in the music. So, rhythmic break when a musician tries to catch his breath caesura is also a break in a middle of a line of poetry.

The next word was caitiff defendant in a lawsuit person of bad character judicial officer hunting dog caitiff means a person of bad character a cowardly and despicable person. And next word was cantilever suspension bridge, supporting bracket, instrument for prying open the mathematical curve and the answer is supporting bracket it meant projecting or it means projecting horizontal beam fixed at one ending and only. The term which is used in construction matters - cantilever supporting bracket.

Next word is capitulate now if you at the beginning I told you, you have to look up recapitulate which is summarize this is not recapitulate. So, the best choice here is surrender he capitulated to the animal it relates to the military. Now the word has Latin origin and in Latin caput c a p u t means head, caputilam little head. Now say at the end of a battle someone bows their head in defeat. So, capitulates means surrender, caputilam little head you cannot have little head you bow your head. Next word is carapace you were given choices - sea, snail, gaudy banner, animal shell medieval carriage this is the answer is animal shell it is a scientific term for protective shells.

We were given next choices for careen as fondle, lurch, decay, secure; careen is the way someone moves physical movement. So, lurch is the answer, not fondle - fondle is to pet someone decay is something else all together disintegrating secure is when you fast and something secure yourself, lurch is a movement. So, careen is a kind of a movement

swing from side to side. Catalytic we were given four choices and the answer is a accelerating and action, it does not destroy it is not catastrophic it is not ineffectual it is not participate, non participating. Next word is celebrate we often say monks observe celibacy. So, that means the best choice unmarried and if you were thinking joyous then I think you are thinking celebrity or an as to celebrate that is joyous, but celibate to observe celibacy is to stay chaste unmarried.

Next word was cenobite and this in the meaning here is monk living communally the choice c, it is a member of a religious order living in a community in a commune and next word was cenotaph we had four choices wax engraving, empty tomb, optical illusion, inscription on a statue - it is an empty tomb, cenotaph is an empty tomb. Is a monument to the dead specifically those buried in another place they were buried in somewhere else, but monument is constructed somewhere else. So, it is an empty tomb cenotaph are often a vector in honor of war veterans, it is very similar to attune it is a memorial to the dead, unlike to my cenotaph does not contain remain the body of the person memorialized because the remains are elsewhere or could not be recovered

Next word is chaffer – chaffer: a – haggle, b – vex, c - small bird, d – sip. I would like you to look up the meaning of the word vex also v e x and chaffer to chaffer is to haggle, to haggle over something I shall chattered or lot say haggle over a price of something cost of something you go to the well shop and haggle over the price. So, that is haggling chaffering. Next word was shine, chine choices were – kiln, succession or bell sounds, which is a chine and part of the face which is chin, but shine is backbone. Next word was chitterling we were given four choices and the answer is c, part of a small intestine very biological term part of small intestine human anatomy.

Next word was cinnabar and it means bright red mineral choice a, if it were cinnamon it would have been a certain kind of a spice, but its bright red mineral the word bird of bright which has given to confuse you. Codicil is addition to a will, coda it not minute particle its or an anything else it is addition to a will and next word was comestible you were given four choices odds and ends, superior products, c - food not sea food, but choice c - food, d - companions and the answer is food, its comestibles not combustibles.

Comity is courtesy answer choice b. The noun comity a state of civility or courtesy between people, organizations and nations, it is a state of, the state of state where you

expect mutual repentance friendliness. Your next word was commensurate - commensurate choices were a - acquainted with, b - certain, c - required, d - proportionate. So, that is the answer from proportionate, punishment should commensurate with the act: suppose you have a stolen a loaf of bread then for that you cannot be put behind the bar for 10 years and, that is what happen in the great French novel (Refer Time: 25:09) where the hero is put behind the bars for several years as for very small very petty theft.

So, idea is when things are commensurate they are fair appropriate they are proportionate and next word is conative, conative relating to which the answer is a choice a attempt perform an action and the next word was concatenation which is resonance, smugness, hollowness, linking together the choice the best answer is linking together choice d a series of interconnected things. Remember concatenation refers to a series of things, ideas, events and even let us somehow interconnected these are individual path that are laying to form a single unit like links of a chain.

And then you have a word like concomitant and concomitant is the best choice here is choice d a company concomitant means to accompany is one of those Latin based words where you can you really break it break it down into little pieces con and commit means companion. So, something that is concomitant is like the companion of the main event and the next word concordat choices were document, agreement, treaty of peace and endorsement and the best choices choice b agreement concordat. A concordat is an agreement between parties especially between nations or even between church and the nations. So, it is official written and signed it is an official agreement.

And the next word contemn, you express contemn for someone you are not condoning, but contemn for someone this is despise looked on upon. So, look down always this gain the choice d. And the next word was contiguous - contiguous is bordering upon that is the border and the best choice is choice b adjacent, it is not contemporary or constricted or infectious or infectious, it is adjacent.

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From here I will take you to a choice miss the words which are, which may not be very common, but which may appear now and then. So, first is apothecary it comes from the English in 14 century AD and derived from the Latin word apothia - apotheca which meant store house. Gradually it became a title for the person who was skilled in preparing medicines and we are talking about 14 - 15th centuries pharmacy is the word that we use today. Synonym for apothecary a person, whose stores and dispersive with medicine, some contemporary companies and drugs store owners also use the old fashion word, just to hard back to the charm of the term apothecary. So, they label the products they sell as apothecary this is just a way of a settling for old world charm.

And next word which is not too uncommon is alpha mail alpha is the beginning, omega is the ending, mail tending to assume a demo dominant position domineering role in social or professional situations this is called alpha mail. And the next word which is also fast becoming very common in everyday uses is chic now this is the French it is not shic it is chic and something that is chic is fashionable or a stylish we often say radical chic or rustic chic, so style statement.

Next word I wanted to bring to your notices belfry b e l f r y it is a bell tower, usually stands alone unattached to a building imagine huge bells standing alone and attached these are belfry. You can look up the images on the net. Next word is cabal, now cabal is originally something else it denotes something else, but now it has come to mean a lot of

things. It is a secret plot a small group of people who create a plot, some conspiracy theories are also based on the ideas that government are in the hands of a powerful cabal. Cabal comes from the word kabbalah it is a Jewish tradition. So, we are not looking at Latin words we are looking at a Jew word now or Hebrew word, Jewish. So, we do not say Jewish word we said the Hebrew word and then the Jewish tradition of interpreting text, kabbalah is regarded as a secret and mystical practice. So, we say cabalistic.

So, today when we use the word cabalist a secrete plot secret groups organization that are up to something. So, secret behaviour there is a cabal in this organization they are always plotting against someone. So, that is how we use cabal. And there is a similar mean a word cartel, c a r t e l when groups or bands come together. So, to form to control the supply of a product for the best interest let us called a cartel; so controlling the supply of a product.

The word cartel originally refers to political parties that joint forces to promote a common cause. Over the years cartel to con a negative conversation and now it is more likely to describe organizations they join together to limit supply of product to force prices to remain high. In films and books you may come across the word like drug cartel. So, what does it mean? To describe organizations that joint together to supply a product. Next word is limn, n is silent here l i m n, it not it is not lemon but limn - is to paint or depict and from here we get the word eliminate to decorate with color designs or to brighten something as in medieval manuscripts. So, that is where the origin is now we say to limn someone, I want to limn an idea to limn my point of view which is very formulaic kind of language, but people do use it.

Next word is lagniappe. You go to a shop and you shop for quite a bit and at the end of your shopping the merchant bills you, it may be a big bill a hefty bill, but while he is giving you your the product that you have just bought he also gives you a small object or thing, it could be anything it may be a key chain, it may be small toy or then people who are more found of spending on luxuries goods. So, if you buy perhaps a hand bag for thousands then you get small piece of cosmetic. So, that is the lagniappe. You buy something from my shop, shop keeper gives you something a small gift it could be even a box of chocolates or a pack of cookies. So, things like that, so lagniappe.

Next word is lingua franca we call English lingua franca, it is a name or originally it is a name it was a name given to a mix of Italian, French, Spanish, Greek and Arabic all these languages. Any hybrid language used by people of different speech to enable them to communicate with each other understand each other, it is a common language today we call English and lingua franca. Earlier it was the Frankish language which was a mix of French, Italian, Spanish, Greek and Arabic.

Next word is pagan p a g a n, people who do not believe in religion. Originally pagan was who do not believe in the entity of called god, but they have their own local kinds of rituals. So, they do not believe in the organized religion. Today you are pagan or you are a pagan if you are a pagan if you do not believe in religion or you worship more than one god, the originally pagans were followers of an ancient religion that worship several gods. Now today paganism is also refer to someone unconventionally, but that is not the way it is I just wanted to look it up and derive your own conclusions what you are understand from the word pagan it has multiple connotations.

And we just talked about the word alpha and alpha male and then germane to that it is omega, omega is the ending of a series or a sequence. Technically that 24th or the last letter of the Greek alphabet, when we say alpha and omega together, first and the last it signifies God's eternity. There is very interesting word called as philistine, please note the spelling philistine. A philistine person is a person who has narrow mind and of conventional morality and they have a set of views and taste that indicate a lack of or indifference towards evolving cultural and aesthetic values you are a philistine if you are all these it is a negative word. We have also done a word like dilettante, please go back to your earlier sessions earlier lectures and see who is a dilettante, who is a philistine.

And the next word is profane p r o f a n e it means unholy. Profane can now also be used to describe behaviour and language, it shows an overall lack of respect for someone's religious belief. We also said profanity in the movie I was put off by the level of profanity in this film. So, that is bad behaviour offensive language. Another word that may appear in exams is quisling; quisling look at the spelling is a traitor who collaborates with an enemy force occupying the countries, so quisling. It has it is a word of historical origin used in the Second World War and there was a Norwegian politician Vidkun quisling who volunteered to help the occupying Nazis rule Norway for Germany. So, quisling was tried for (Refer Time: 38:27) and the word his name has now becomes

synonyms with traitors and collaborators. In America no one says quisling because with that capital Q in America when you are a traitor like quisling you have, you have given the name Benedict Arnold, Benedict Arnold was also a traitor.

Next word is a roue - r o u e, a charming roué, a charming rogue, but a smooth stacking rogue a good for nothing, but it is still of a charm. So, we often call you know certain kind of personalities that is the roué, it is French word with an accent. Next word is nepotism n e p o t i s m, it comes from Italian word for nephew that is nepot n e p o t and look at the connection a lot of people tended to promote their nephews, we are talking about 18 century, 19 century at the expense of other candidates. So, nepot, so nepotism now has come to mean favoritism of any family member is something that is very commonly used in everyday language.

Next word is supercilious, supercilious it means haughty the Latin root is supercilium and then it has also some relation with hair, cilium supercilious haughty arrogant, but then it also has another meaning like eyebrow as an eyebrow raised in a haughty supercilious expression. So, this is, someone is raising eyebrows; that means, arrogant, disdain for others. And another word is totem t o t e m, it is an emblem a batch that features an animal or plant totem represents family clan or tribe where most tribes have a totem which means they have a symbol and if you have watched the movie inception you know there is a totem that the hero has if whether its dream or reality which was given to him by his father. So, that is the revolving top spinning top, so that is the totem. So, please practice and we will meet for the next week's class very soon

Thank you very much we will be doing more vocabulary before I forget to mention that, we will be doing some more vocabulary and then we will proceed on to do some grammar.