

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

Week - 09

Lecture - 42

Vocabulary: More Uncommon Words (Contd.)

So, we continue with discussion of answers, the next item was marmot, m a r m o t you would recall from the last lecture and the answer is rodent you know rodent are rats rat like from belonging to the same family. Tureen is a large deep serving dish many a time perhaps some of you have this dish at homes, but very often you find this in hotels, when the waiter serves you food in a large deep serving dish with a cover for serving soups and a stoupe. So, you know something important is coming away when it is a tureen. So, that dish is called tureen. So, that dish is called tureen.

So, every dish has a particular name culinary in architecture in designs with that is what we have been seeing. So, far that everything has a name and ordinary podium is not just a podium, it is name something else. You remember that the other day I showed you this particular podium and I said lectern. So, everything has a particular name to it. It is not we do not give generic names to things and especially when you are appearing for an exam, the test your grammar vocabulary usage you have to be sensitive to these things. The next word was martingale and the answer is harness strip, is not atmospheric disturbance or (Refer Time: 01:55) it is a harness strip people use it for harnessing that is trap that is use when people harness.

Now, maunder is to talk in coherently that was the next word m a u n d e r that is talk in coherently and synonyms of maunder or blab blabber chatter gabble gibberish and even in piffling, and prattle and tittle tattle. These are the kinds of words that only the higher order person may, person with a higher order of English would use in day to day conversation, blabbering, chattering, gabbling, gibbering, palaver, piffling, tittle tittle these are not the kinds of words that you will find in day to day, I mean in the conversation of people who are just basic and entry who have entry level conversation skills. Maunder is more formal and blabber and tittle tattle a piffling and prating and all though this or prattling and prating all these are a little colloquial, yes, but they will be

use by those people who have very good control and command over the English language.

Next word was may have it means violent disturbance criminal mutilation. So, answer is choice c, yes I know many of you would have got confused with the word murder it is not murder generally we newspapers a murder and mayhem. So, they are not interchangeable, murder is murder mayhem could also mayhem can be murder, but if the choice is also given as criminal mutilation where destruction and violence is involving then it is mayhem. You cause a lot of mayhem there was an accident lot of mayhem not necessary murder, but lot of destruction, lot of disturbance was caused violently that is mayhem. Mantic is choice a grow task.

Remember mantic or it is a classical word a mantic or is a fear some half beast half human creature with quills like a porcupine. So, it is mythological made up a monster, for example, you have a griffin that has a lion's head and eagle wings. And they Egyptian sphinx with a human head and a lion's body. So, mythology is very fond of using such for referring to such creatures, chimera unicorn several more. So, very popular and mantic word. So, grotesque it itself means something which is abnormal in a disturbing sort of way not a beautiful way. Next word was meiosis; meiosis is under statement here under statement. And next was melic m e l i c. Melic is related to song exact meaning is related to an ancient Greek song lyric poem which is meant to be song.

And the next word was minion, you very often come across this word like minion what does it mean minions are those people who do some bodies bidding. So, all the times are let say you have the director of a company, and his minions as they will do his min they will do his leg work, and they generally depend on him for favors him or her as the case might be. So, the best answer is d hanger on, they feed of the people feed of an and important person who can who is in a position to be favors to them. So, big person minion he has his or he she has their eminence kind of a s man a nameless faceless, servant they have no is just that here is a person who is in position the chief minister and his or her minions. So, negative term.

That your only importance is that you are around the person who orders you around, corporate presidents have minions politicians have minions they try to cover up their mistakes, if a celebrity comes to your college or the university or to your town

sometimes, you will find minions will come a head of time to make sure that everything is a perfect, and the stage is set right and the welcome committee is set right. So, that is min that is a jog of a million. Next word was moiety, moiety is half choice a is of one of two equal parts if you cut chocolate or cake a pie in to in half, when you have one moiety for lunch and you can have another moiety for dinner moiety has also been used in Shakespeare in Antony and Cleopatra the death of Antony is not a single doom in the name lay a moiety of the world one half of the world.

Next is mordacious. Mordacious is caustic biting. Rats bite is very mordacious in an it has a very sad and negative meaning to it. Mortiles the next word which means undistinguished choice b, mortally crowd came and protested, undistinguished, assorted miscellaneous these are the synonyms, sundry it also does not have a very positive connotation. Today it is used in a virtually any context as a synonym of group (Refer Time: 08:33) heterogeneous we have miss matched group of people. The word was first used and you will be surprised to know to describe multi colored fabric. And that to in a jester's fools costume, the distinctive clothing was the sign of the fool's place outside the class system and therefore, the fool in a code.

The code just I was a he had the exceptional ability to speak freely. This was very common in the Elizabeth and codes. So, mortley, was a mortley was used in describe or multi colored fabric. Today mortley is used to describe anything which is crowded and a hydrogenous crowd miss match group of people. So, mortley group of people came and started shouting slogans. Next word was pluvial is rainy geographical term d, and polity I am sure most of you got it right choices again the basic structure of a government. Next was predatory, predatory is choice d plundering pillaging synonyms are rapacious ravening vulturing aggressive. So, predatory your predatory today is used when one party victimizes another for personal gain.

But we also now use it in a why their academic context. We will say predatory journals or predatory publishes, you know in any bodies no longer the ah the best of the publishers who are there, but also every day some kind of a publishing companies floated and they do their business. So, a business is being also often accused of predatory practices, yeah pillaging plundering robbing. Next word was predicate. predicate means something based upon facts which is choice a, it involves as a necessary condition of consequence logical something which is affirmed or denied concerning and argument of

a proposition. Next word was preempt. So, you establish a prior claim this is. So, this is choice bit to displace or take something before others scan. You preempted situation there is going to be vacancy in a college you will apply, there is a land which is going to be solar house which is going to be sold for a at a through away price.

So, you have preempted the situation, and then you displace and take something before others can let us what was petard which means explosive device, no longer very commonly used in military purposes, but a still it is used to denote something in situation this is petardly situation. So, Shakespeare used it to mean to be heard by a own plan or to heard someone, to be heard by your own plan which was device 2 heard someone else to fall in to your own trap, to be blown up by your own bomb, to petard is aggression bombing explosion, next word was germination very popular very common very easy is budding b. Idea germinated in my mind seeds germinate. So, budding next word was glare very uncommon word it means a slimy substance.

So, our choice c preparation made from egg white as an adhesive for book binding and gliding. Remember for book binding have once I used, I am not sure of the much more sophisticated waves of book binding, perhaps the art or book binding is also fast disappearing, but once upon a time not too long ago advice was used as an adhesive for book binding. Next word was heuristic choice a following a formula. It is derived from Greek word; that means, to discover heuristic describes a rule or a method that comes from experience and helps you think, through things like the process of elimination or the process of trial and error. So, you can think of a heuristic as a short cut. In next word was illative, illative was choice c, inferential or relating to or having the nature of illation or in inference.

Next word was imbricate; that means, overlap evenly choice a and next was word was origin which is the prayer Shakespeare uses this word in Romeo and Juliet, when Juliet says I have need of many origins as you prepare to the see you have parents. So, origin that a prayer. Next word was ormolu. So, you had 4 choices, old clock, read furniture, see imitation gold, and d delicate filigree. Answer is choice c, which is imitation gold and a type of a alloy a mixed battle. Next word was prodigality. Prodigality you have already been told the story of the prodigal son, of son who would. So, the choices are grade fames in fullness, lavishness and negligence. Well the prodigal son was seen full and lavishon negligent in all respects.

But the best choice choice c lavish, he would leave lavishness, spend lavishly spent away his inheritance and came back home returned home very sad, and he returned of the prodigal. So, that that is the way the by will uses the word and he was forgiven by his father, when people spend a lot a money on things which are objects of luxury, expensive cloths dining out expensive cars, etcetera we say they are living prodigally.

Next word was pylon, now it not to be confused with python, python is a sort of a snake a reptile. Pylon is a gate way large verticals again an architectural term. So, large vertical steel towers supporting high tension parallel lines, that is what a dictionary would give you. And next word was quagmire, quagmire is choice c, a soft boggy area, bog b o g. Second meaning is a difficult situation. I have led myself in to this kind of quagmire difficult is sticky situation.

Yes, again when we say consider a land which is soft and body, and you place your foot on attune sink d. So, that that is well the second meaning comes from that you have sort of knowingly or unknowingly got yourself into a sticky tricky difficult situation from where it is difficult to come out. The choices are bog choices are som, moras peat, marsh fen, f e n, slough, s l o u g h, quick sand all these are synonyms. All of these mean the same thing is soft kind of a place and area from where it is difficult to common and that is what a somehow you use, that is why you use it in everyday language also quick sand like situation, keep sinking and sinking further and further into this.

Next word was peristyle, and it is choice d. And closure form by a row of columns again an architectural word. And so this is the what we discussed last time and here an we just discussed the terms and words that we were doing in our last class. Now here is another exercise fresh exercise for you please open your dictionaries.

(Refer Slide Time: 17:39)

Exercise

- **Quotidian:** (a) trite (b) occurring every day
(c) word for word (d) sharing
- **Recrimination:** (a) counter-accusation
(b) double jeopardy (c) flattery
(d) needless repetition
- **Redaction:** (a) conquest (b) submission
(c) editing (d) rehearsal

And look at the slide here. Look at the first word. What are the end choices are a trite, b occurring every day, c word for word, d sharing. Next word is recrimination, a counter accusation, b double jeopardy, c flattery d needless repetition.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:09)

- **Quietus:** (a) conservatism (b) comfort
(c) soft speech (d) release from life
- **Redolent:** (a) fragrant (b) needy (c) lazy
(d) grieving
- **Refulgent:** (a) brilliant (b) unstable
(c) capacious (d) explosive
- **Reprehensible:** (a) easy TO grasp
(b) blameworthy (c) deferential (d) viable

Next word is redaction, a conquest, b submission, c editing, d rehearsal. Next slide is look at a quietus, a conservatism, b comfort, c soft speech, d release from life. Next word redolent, a fragrant, b needy, c lazy, d grieving. Next word refulgent, brilliant, unstable,

capacious, explosive. Next word reprehensible, a easy to grasp b blameworthy c deferential d viable.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:45)

- **Reprobate:** (a) sinner (b) deserter
(c) stickler for accuracy (d) official in charge of wills
- **Reproof:** (a) check (b) strengthening
(c) demon-stration (d) censure
- **Refection:** (a) meditation (b) light meal (c) remedy
(d) dessert

Look at the next slide, reprobate, a sinner, b deserter, c stickler for accuracy, d official in charge of wills. Next word reproof, a check, b strengthening, c demonstration, d censure. Next word refection, a meditation, b light meal, c remedy, d dessert. These are different between dessert and dissert.

(Refer Slide Time: 19:17)

- **Rhapsodic:** (a) ecstatic (b) fervent
(c) bombastic (d) tightly knit
- **Risible:** (a) shimmering (b) likely
(c) inducing (d) laughter
- **Salutatory:** (a) healthy (b) leaping
(c) spicy (d) attacking

Next slide, please look at it rhapsodic, a ecstatic, b fervent, c bombastic, d tightly knit.
Next word risible, a shimmering, b likely, c likely as an similar, c inducing, d laughter.
Next word salutatory, a healthy, b leaping, c spicy, d attacking. And we will discuss the answers. So, custodian is something that occurs every day daily custodian. It is a very poetic literally kind of a one, people do not generally use it in every speech; however, competitive English is not all about every day speech, even not even find it in newspapers, you will have to do a little bit of literature reading read T S Elliot, read Shakespeare. So, read perhaps Charles Dickens and the great works of some of the American authors like Henry James and Edith Wharton. You will find plenty of such kinds of words.

John Spineback is another important American novelist. That can be that can be quite useful where it comes to developing vocabulary. Recrimination is a counter accusation and reduction is choice c, which is editing and writing sometimes it is also meant for the censoring or posturing of part of a text mark legal or security purposes. So, reduction next word was quite, quite us means release from life in other words, death choice d again very religious euphemistic, the other day we were using discussing a word like euphemism, which means using a softer term to mean something harsh. We do not say short people we say vertically challenged, we do not say blind people we say visually impaired, and we do not say died we say got a release from life.

Redolent next word is fragrant and it is maintain the way in the context of pleasant odor, redolent indolent is lazy. So, do not get confused with choice c, John Keat had written a poem called ode on indolence which is in the pleasures of just doing nothing, you are not advocating laziness of course, but he was talking about a situation when it sometimes it is good to just play back and enjoy nature. The romantics great admirers of nature. Next word was refulgent which means brilliant it comes from the Latin word fulgere f u i g e r e meaning to shine. So, here we are talking about brilliance in terms of shining brilliantly radiant dazzling luminous these are the synonyms.

Next word was reprehensible, which means blame worthy, we can blame something it is deserving condemnation censure, not sensor sense your we you know the difference between to sensor something to censure something c e n s u r e we say reprehensible laxity, blameworthy. Synonyms are deplorable disgraceful discreditable disreputable despicable is a very good word or reprehensible, o d s obnoxious opprobrious repugnant.

So, these are the synonyms for reprehensible, all negative words next word was reproof, reproof, choices were a check, b strengthening, c demonstration, d censure. So, the best answer is d censure. To blame someone for something, and next word was reflection, there is one here.

A meditation b, light meal, c remedy, d dessert. The best choice is b light meal, reprobate. It is not dessert. Next word was reprobate. We often come across this term, a newspapers and magazines reprobate, that is a religious kind of a word meanings in a today we use this in context of criminals also. So, a sinner choice a, reckless unprincipled the person other synonyms could be rake, rake profligate degenerate debauchee, libertine. So, person of low morals bad character. So, very negative word to call someone reprobate, morally reprehensible. Next word was rhapsodic which means ecstatic, bohemian, rhapsody; that means, ecstatic in rapture you go in rapture.

So, he was rhapsodic about the movie. It is a very high flown kind of a word, but very nice word. It is a very positive word you can also confuse it with fervent you know fervent phrasing or bombastic, you know using big words, but best meaning is going in raptures going ecstatic about something that is rhapsodic very positive term. Risible is something that induces laughter all these standup comedians and the risible comedy the risible jokes. Sometimes you can even use the word raunchy which has something else the mother meaning which is bawdy bawdy something which is not in very good tastes.

Risibly is something that induces laughter. Next word was salutatory, you know the word salubrious, salubrious climate in olden days, when people would suffer from certain kinds of diseases like consumption tuberculosis they would the doctor would advise them to move to salubrious places that has salubrious climate. So, you know more kind of climate that is healthy and agrees with those people that kind of temperament and that kind of physical make up. Salutatory is healthy choice a.

Thank you very much. We will continue with more vocabulary in our subsequent classes.