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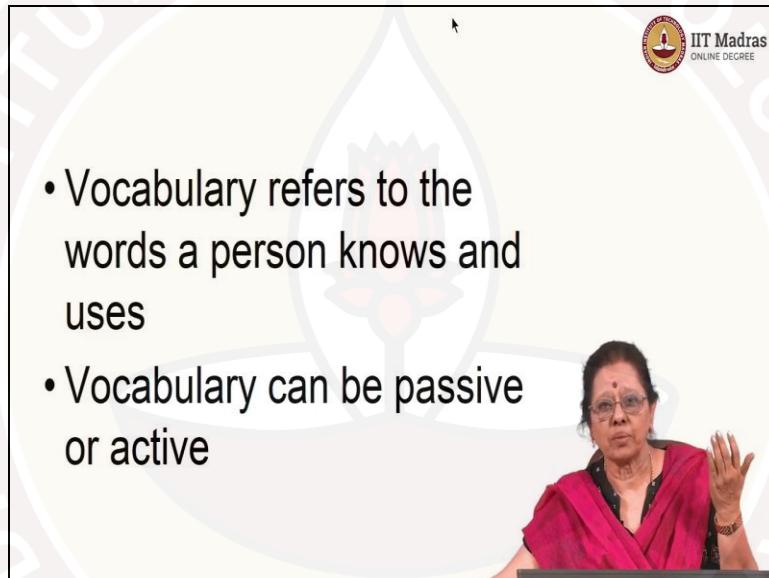
ONLINE DEGREE

English-I(Basic English)
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Lecture-11
Enrich your Vocabulary

Today, we are going to see how one can enrich one's vocabulary. Now to start with, what is vocabulary? It refers to the words a person knows and uses.

(Refer Slide Time: 00:33)



- Vocabulary refers to the words a person knows and uses
- Vocabulary can be passive or active

Now vocabulary can be passive or active; the other words used is that it can be either productive or receptive. Quite often you know a particular word it is there, but you do not use it you do not produce it, but still, it is part of your vocabulary, so it becomes a passive vocabulary. Now more than anything else I feel vocabulary is the most important a fundamental tool to improve all your skills, whether it is listening or speaking or reading or writing.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:01)

Why should you improve your vocabulary?



- Words are catalysts for learning and thinking
- More words one can command, the more accurate one's thinking is
- Wide vocabulary improves academic scope
- Students who build vocabulary get better grades
- Words allow one to communicate one's thoughts and feelings
- Words help you to persuade and influence others
- A good repertoire of vocabulary reflects the personality of the speaker



Now the question is, why should one improve one's vocabulary is a whole lot of advantage, is such a lot of plus that you get by increasing it. Some of the words are catalysts for learning and thinking. When you think and use the word that is one thing, another is when you start using the right word, you also begin to think properly. Now more words one can command the more accurate ones thinking is.

Then a wide vocabulary improves the academic scope, fourth is students who build vocabulary get better grades and if not anything else that is something to work for. Allow one to communicate one's thoughts and feelings; they help you to persuade and influence others. I mean the demagogues or politicians know it very well, they really know to use the right word so that they can persuade you. And a good repertoire of vocabulary reflects the personality of the speaker.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:09)

How should you improve your vocabulary ?



- Learning is fun...like playing games
- Go for playing games ... say with root words, foreign words [Greek, Latin, French, American, Indian]
- Play prefixing games, suffixing games,
- Synonym games and antonym games



Now, the next question is, how should you improve your vocabulary. It is not a very painful exercise learning is fun; it is like playing games go for playing games, say with root words, foreign words, Greek, Latin, French, American, Indian words. Play prefixing games, suffixing games, synonym games and antonym games. Now I am not going to talk a lot about each one of them but, prefixing and suffixing, you must be able to do it quite easily.

For instance, you use a prefix like this for instance so you can say dislike, dishonour, dishonest, disobedience but then sometimes you know when you say dismantling, it's not a prefix you do not say mantle or dismantle. Similarly, I have this doubt about I mean expression disgruntled I am told that there is a word gruntled as well, but generally, it is not used, we only say that the employee is disgruntled.

Similarly, you say something is in is a prefix which you use for invisible, inaudible but when you say infancy, infancy is not the opposite of fancy. So, you have to know which are the words similar-sounding which can be prefixes and which are part of the root word themselves. Now when you look at suffixes, similarly you have like if you say courage courageous. Whereas when you use the prefix, it becomes n and encourage or enrich right.

Now, I mean I don't want to dwell much on prefixing and suffixing because I think that you can always find words and use the suffixes and make them increase your repertoire it can really enrich your vocabulary more easily than some of the other exercises will do.

(Refer Slide Time: 04:08)

The slide contains a list of words and a logo for IIT Madras Online Degree. The list includes:

- Use one word to learn many.
- Price refers to the amount of money for which something may be bought or sold.
- There are other words related to payment of money,
- Fare
- Fee
- Fine
- Tax
- Toll
- Likewise, there are words related to travel, but a journey is not a voyage!
- An excursion is different from a tour and so on.
- Learn to use the right word.



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Now the next exercise I would like you to look at is use one word to learn many. This is a very very interesting way of learning a word. For instance, the word price, the word price refers to the amount of money for which something may be bought or sold. Now there are other words related to the payment of money like fair; you say bus fare, fare and fee, tax toll. Now, I mean like you can take it as an exercise, go through the dictionary, go through thesaurus, find out what is the difference between each one of them.

So as part of my presentation, you also have these activities think of all these words which are related to payment, but later on, if you can't really put your finger to it, you can always check up the dictionary. Now other interesting things are you know words related to travel; a journey is not a voyage. An excursion is different from a tour. So, everywhere we have to learn to use the right word.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:14)

Synonyms



- A synonym is a word which has the same or nearly the same meaning in one or more senses as another word.
- Use the right word... not almost the right word... e.g. to see is not to observe
- “THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RIGHT WORD AND THE ALMOST RIGHT WORD IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIGHTNING AND THE LIGHTNING BUG”—Mark Twain



Now, looking at synonyms, a synonym is a word which has the same or nearly the same meaning in one or more sentences as another word. Now use the right word, not almost the right word. Now in this connection you know I came across this very interesting quote by Mark Twain, he says the difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug and whatever difference it is, so, never use the almost right word when the right word is available.

Now there is another doubt that I used to often get as a teacher of English because I feel that there are really no synonyms. All the words each word is different just think of words connected to the visual or something connected to sight. You say see, you say look, observe, notice, glance, glimpse. Now all of them are connected to the fact, the sense of seeing but then each one is different from the other. When a student is in the lab, he is not just seeing he is observing.

The security personnel is not just viewing; he is watching. So, everywhere that is why I am very happy with this quotation; it cannot be almost the right word; it has to be the right word.

(Refer Slide Time: 06:44)

- A student who knows a lot of synonyms will have the ability to use the right word in the right context.

e.g.

- Vigorous/lively/energetic

Elderly people who are frail should refrain from ----exercise

- Wrecked/demolished/ruined

The old mansion was ----to make way for an expressway



Now a student who knows a lot of synonyms will have the ability to use the right word in the right context. Now I have just given you a couple of sentences; for instance, many people they kind of mix up the word vigorous with lively or energetic. But then even though there are synonyms in some way you cannot use one for the other. Now look at this, elderly people who are frail should refrain from dash exercise.

So what do you say, do you say vigorous or lively or energetic, yes it is vigorous that is right. Now look at the second sentence, the old mansion was dash to make way for an expressway, do you use wrecked or demolished or ruined. So, you have to know the difference between wrecked and demolished, demolished and ruined. Of course here, the word is demolished.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:41)

Antonyms



- An antonym is a word that is opposite in meaning to another word
- Look at the following Examples.
- 1. Beating up a smaller person is not something brave. In fact it is a ----act
- 2. some people are optimistic about the country's economy while others are quite----- about it.
- 3. Mr. Sharma's frugality is in sharp contrast to his son's -----.



Now antonym, antonym is a word that is used I mean that is the opposite in the meaning to another word. Look at the following examples, I have given you two or three examples. Now I do not want to give you the answers. I am sure it is interesting for you to think and come up with the answers. First one is beating up a smaller person is not something brave in fact it is a dash act. Two, some people are optimistic about the country's economy while others are quite dash about it.

So as you know the word optimistic so you antonym pessimistic I remember the very famous example that is given to distinguish optimistic and pessimistic. So, given a glass which is half-filled with water, the optimist says there is a half glass of water, and the pessimist says it is half empty. So, one who looks at the brighter side of things one who looks at the darker side of things I mean you can keep on talking about it but look at the way you can work out the antonyms.

Mr. Sharma's frugality is in sharp contrast to his son's dash. So, look up the antonym of frugality. In the third sentence, the opposite of brave in the first sentence and fill in these blanks. You get it.

(Refer Slide Time: 09:05)

Homophones

- These are words with the same pronunciation, but they are spelt differently and have different meanings. Most of them are short and monosyllabic:
- Tail and tale
- Bow and bough
- Hail and hale
- Pail and pale
- Blue and blew
- Bear and bare
- Fare and fair



Now the other ways I am just giving you different ways in which you can improve your vocabulary. See there is never a possibility of not learning a word, if you learn, if you begin to learn one word, through it you will start learn many, many words. Get into the habit of looking into the dictionary and not just look up one word and leave it at there. See what goes before or after whether it is used as an idiom whether its uses as a phrase.

Whether there are slangs connected to it, now, these are words with the same pronunciation, but they are spelt differently, and they have different meanings. Most of them are short and monosyllabic. So, you I have given you a few homophones tail and tale, bow and bough I mean like here in all these you can see that only the spelling is different, but the pronunciation is the same, and the meanings are different. Pail and pale, blue and blew and bear and bare and fare and fair.

So, it is very important that you do not mix up the homophones but use the same and use the right word depending on the context you are working at.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:19)

Homonyms

- These are words spelt and pronounced alike, but have different meanings
- Bear
- Stalk
- Charge
- Row
- Bow
- Swallow
- Fine



Similarly, you have homonyms, they are words spelt and pronounced alike, but they have different meanings. Now the word bear I mean I have been teaching English to a lot of students from rural areas I find that almost always they pronounce it as beer but beer is b e e r, and this is bear, and the word bear itself has more than one meaning. So, they are homonyms. Similarly, the word stalk, charge, especially charge you can find so many different ways in which the word charge is used. Okay.

Whether you are charging somebody or whether you are in charge of somebody or whether you are charging your cell phone. I mean there are a lot of meanings for the same word, so they are classified as homonyms. And then you have row; please remember that row itself has two meanings but then the same spelling if you pronounce it as row it has a different meaning altogether.

So you have swallow, fine all these are homonyms. It is more important that you pick up each of them, look up the dictionary, find out how many meanings they have and then try to use them in a sentence.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:31)

Words with Classical roots

- -cide, -phile, -phobia are parts of words which can help you to multiply your vocab. They are words with Greek or Latin origins
- Cide is an act of killing
- Suicide, Genocide, Patricide, Matricide, Insecticide, Regicide, ecocide
- Phobia is a strong unreasonable fear about something
- Claustrophobia, Autophobia, Xenophobia, Ornithophobia, Aerophobia, Sociophobia, Astrophobia



Now you have words with classical roots like cide, phile, phobia are parts of words which can help you multiply your vocabulary. Now they are words with Greek or Latin origins. For instance, cide is an act of killing. So, you have related words suicide, genocide, patricide, matricide, insecticide, regicide, ecocide. So, with the help of just one word with a classical root-like cide, you can learn more than 10 words.

Similarly with the word phobia the strong unreasonable fear about something. You have claustrophobia and autophobia, xenophobia, ornithophobia, aerophobia sociophobia, astrophobia okay. I am sure that with this at least try not to have a language phobia I am sure you will be able to pick up so many different words and then you will find that your vocabulary is increasing at such a hectic speed.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:41)

- Phile refers to fondness for, affinity towards a particular thing
- Anglophile
- Bibliophile
- Pedophile
- Hellenophile
- Think of other foreign words commonly used like bon voyage, viva voce



Now, similarly another word with a classical root is phile which refers to a fondness for or an affinity towards a particular thing. So, you have anglophile, bibliophile, pedophile, hellenoophile. Now can you tell me like these four words with phile I have given you. There is one word which is having a negative connotation; it's not the same as bibliophile, it is pedophile. I am sure you have read a lot of stories connected to it as a crime.

So look at the meaning of that word. Now think of other common, other foreign words commonly used like bon voyage or viva voce even these words are very much in use and they are words not originally from English, but they are classical words.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:38)

- Idioms and slangs
- Knowing idioms and slangs can give a boost to your confidence.
 - They cannot be understood literally. You must familiarize yourself with them.
 - They can give you an edge over others who are not familiar with these phrases.
 - American idioms and slangs are a huge part of American culture



Now, look at idioms and slangs. I am just giving you different ways in which you can enrich your vocabulary as I said with synonyms and antonyms, prefixes and suffixes with classical root words. Now another thing is idioms and slangs. Knowing idioms and slangs can give a boost to your confidence. I find that lot of young students; they find that not knowing the slangs kind of undermines their confidence. So, but it is not difficult to pick, they cannot be understood, literally you must familiarize yourself with them.

They can give you an edge over others who are not familiar with these phrases. American idioms and slangs are a huge part of American culture.

(Refer Slide Time: 14:27)

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Look at the following passage:

- Did you ever plan an exciting vacation only to get *as sick as a dog* when it was time to leave? Being *under the weather* is no fun at all, but being sick on a vacation can make it really hard to *keep your chin up*. Just *scarf down* some hot chicken soup and get better *lickety split*...



Now, look at the following passage. Did you ever plan an exciting vacation only to get as sick as a dog when it was time to leave? Being under the weather is no fun at all, but being sick on vacation can make it really hard to keep your chin up. Just scarf down some hot chicken soup and get better lickety split. Now, this is supposed to be a passage with a lot of American slang. Have a good look at it see which of the slangs and how they can be explained?

Yes, I put them in italics for you sick as a dog is feeling very sick, feeling very unwell. The next one is being under the weather, okay the weather is what and keep your chin up and scarf down okay to keep your chin up is to remain brave, scarf down is to drink something very quickly okay yeah lickety split is very quickly very briskly, being under the weather having a very tough time.

So, all these things are American slangs and kids these days learn to use it wherever possible, and it helps them to communicate well with their peers.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:57)

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Semantic field

- Words belong to different semantic fields like Medicine, Law, Journalism etc.
- Given below are set of words. Classify them according to four different semantic fields:
- Law, Cookery, Journalism, Politics
- Boil, Ballot, Appeal, Witness, Coverage, Court, Vote, Special Correspondent, Scoop, Knead, Barbecue, Manifesto, Spices, Adjourn, Seasoning, Reporter, Nomination, Public Prosecutor, Stir, Anesthetics.

Next, we go to the semantic field, okay. So, the word belongs to different semantic fields, I just given you three fields here; Medicine, Law and Journalism. Given below are a set of words. Classify them according to the four different semantic fields. This is another exercise I have given you the fields as Law, Cookery, Journalism and Politics, okay. So, you look at these words, boil, for instance, boil comes under cookery. Okay. Ballot, appeal, witness, coverage, quote.

Just pick up like make the columns and put each word under the semantic field. So, and that helps you to improve your vocabulary. Right. Have you seen them? Okay. I am sure it is not difficult, but then it helps you to enrich your vocabulary. So, we end it in with stir and anesthetic. Stir is for as you know, cookery and anesthetics is in the field of medicine.

(Refer Slide Time: 17:08)

Loan words or foreign words

- American English /British English
- Dumb
- Candy
- Apartment
- Gas
- Druggist
- Bill
- Fall
- French fries



Now, loan words or foreign words are yet another way to improve your vocabulary. So, you have American English and British English. I have given you a set of very common, very often used American words for which you find the British equivalence. Okay. Dumb, Candy, Apartment, Gas Druggist, Bill, Fall and French Fries. So, you find the English equal the UK or the British equivalents for them and I just given you a sample of some 5, 6 words.

There are ever so many words, where you have words connected to the American English which have their English equivalence. Right. Just I will give you the first one dumb; they say do not be so dumb. So, in British English, it is somebody who cannot speak, but in American English, it is somebody who is stupid.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:05)

Use New words

- There are plenty of words...interesting words, right words.
- Do not repeat the same words. That reflects a poor store of vocabulary.
- You don't like to repeat the same dress, do you?
- Why repeat words? Like its super, a TN college student's favourite word!



Now, use new words. There are plenty of words, interesting words, right words. Do not repeat the same words because the repetition of the same words reflects a person of vocabulary. Well, you do not like to repeat the same dress. I know a lot of parents who come to me and say my child, my son or daughter, what he has worn in the first semester he will not wear in the second semester. So, go and go in for a new a whole new wardrobe.

So if you do not want to repeat the same dress, why do you want to repeat the same words, why repeat words. Like I find this word super, it is a Tamil Nadu college student's favourite word. Super for everything you know, the dress is super, food is super, movie super, so many words. So, if everything is super. Then, I came across another word awesome, which many other students also use. Everything is awesome. So, one of the dictionaries said that awesome does not mean anything, I said why, but I am told that if the same word is used for so many things, then it has no meaning, it loses its power, it loses its power to communicate.

(Refer Slide Time: 19:27)

- b) Here is a letter written by a friend with a limited vocabulary. Try replacing 'awesome' and 'lousy' with other suitable adjectives:



So to close, I have just given you a small exercise. Okay. Here is a letter written by a friend with a limited vocabulary. Try replacing awesome and lousy with other suitable adjectives. So, awesome is set for everything that is good and lousy for everything that is bad. Okay. Like awesome, they say food is lousy, movie is lousy, class is lousy. So, there are so many words which you can use. So, I am just giving you the letter in the next slide have a look at it.

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- b) Here is a letter written by a friend with a limited vocabulary. Try replacing 'awesome' and 'lousy' with other suitable adjectives:



Remove awesome and replace it with some other adjective.

(Refer Slide Time: 20:02)

- Hi Pradeep,
- How are you? You wanted to know about my trip to Goa. Here you are...
- The rooms the agents had booked were awesome, but the cabs were lousy.
- On the second day they had arranged for a shopping experience and I tell you the shops were simply awesome and by the time we got back it was pretty late and we had to settle for some lousy food.



Look at this; Hi Pradeep, How are you? You wanted to know about my trip to goa. Here you are... The rooms the agents had booked were awesome, but the cabs were lousy. So, what can you say here? The rooms were great, comfortable, magnificent, I mean you can use any words other than awesome. But the cabs were lousy. So, see what words you can use for cabs being lousy. Cabs were dirty, uncomfortable.

Now, look at the second paragraph. On the second day they had arranged for a shopping experience, and I tell you the shops were simply awesome, and by the time we got back it was pretty late, and we had to settle for some lousy food. So what can you say? The shops were awesome. So you can say the shops were fantastic, the shops were excellent, okay. We have to settle for some lousy food. So, generally, people say horrible food but the word horrible can be used for everything else also.

Think of something very, very specific to food so you can say, settle for some unpalatable or unhygienic food, of course, you can say the food was not tasty, whatever. Let us just complete it; there is just one more slide.

(Refer Slide Time: 21:45)

- Next day we were taken to the Church of St.Francis which was absolutely awesome. As we had still some time left the guide suggested a short movie ‘Shoot out at Lonawala’ which was so lousy we wanted to shoot the guide.
- We broke away from the group the following day to visit an old friend. He lives in an old mansion which I am told is 300 years old.



Next day we were taken to the church of Saint Francis, which was absolutely awesome. As we had still some time left the guide suggested a short movie ‘Shootout At Lonavala’, which was so lousy we wanted to shoot the guide. We broke away from the group the following day to visit an old friend. He lives in an old mansion which I am told is 300 years old.

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- . It was truly awesome. More awesome were the two horses that kept galloping round the awesome lawns. On the whole the trip was awesome.
- Your bff
- savitha



It was truly awesome. More awesome were the two horses that kept galloping round the awesome lawns. On the whole, the trip was awesome. So, then why should you be finding it difficult to use other words. There are ever so many words, words related to beautiful things, words related to something of a fine quality. So, try and pick up all the adjectives and use it.

Using the right adjectives instead of repeating the same thing is one way in which you can enrich your vocabulary.

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So, empower yourselves with a rich vocabulary.

All the Best.

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So, empower yourself with a rich vocabulary and happy learning.