



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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WHAT IS GOOD VOCABULARY- PART 3

Collocation- How any word can relate to other words.

For instance, see the following extract.

Six weeks later Rajam came to Swaminathan's house to announce that he forgave him all his sins-starting with his political activities, to his new acquisition, the Board High School air, by which was meant a certain slowness and stupidity engendered by mental decay.

HOW SOME WORDS CHANGE IN CONTEXT

Words as given In the text	Words as in a dictionary	Changes the word has undergone
weeks	Week (N)	Week + plural
later	Late (A)	Late + er
came	Come (V)	Come = past tense
Swaminathan's	Swaminathan (N)	Swaminathan + possessive marker
forgave	Forgive (V)	Forgive + past tense
sins	Sin (N)	Sin + plural

Words as given In the text	Words as in a dictionary	Changes the word has undergone
starting	Start (V)	Start + progressive verb marker
political	Politics (N)	Politics + adjective marker
activities,	Activity (N)	Activity + plural
acquisition	Acquire (V)	Acquire + noun marker
meant	Mean (V)	Mean + passive voice marker

Words as given In the text	Words as in a dictionary	Changes the word has undergone
slowness	Slow (A)	Slow + noun marker
stupidity	Stupid (A)	Stupid + noun marker
engendered	Engender (V)	Engender + passive voice marker
mental	Mind (N)	Mind + adjective marker

Words	Change in forms
week, sin and activity	Changed from Singular to plural nouns
come and forgive	Became verbs of past tense (Came, forgave)
mean and engender	Changed from active voice to passive voice
late and later	Change in degree
Swaminathan	No change- Remains noun

INFLEXION

- A verb remains a verb, though changing from present to past tense; or,
- Noun still remains a noun, though changing from singular to plural number.
- Verbs can also become nouns, as when “drive” changes to “driver”; or, nouns can become verbs, as when “person” changes to “personify”; or an adjective can change to adverb, such as when “slow” becomes “slowly”.

DERIVATION

- An adjective can become a noun or
- A noun can become an adjective, or
- A verb can become a noun, or
- A noun can become a verb, or
- A noun can become an adverb

“Politics” is a noun, but after “+al” is added to it, it becomes an adjective.

EXAMPLES OF DERIVATION

Given Word	Derived Word
Politics (N)	Political (A)
Acquire (V)	Acquisition (N)
Slow (A)	Slowness (N)
Stupid (A)	Stupidity (N)
Mind (N)	Mental (A)

ACTIVITY

Look at the extract given below. Then make a table to show:

- a. Which words have changed
- b. How they have changed
- c. If they are inflexions (I) or derivations (D).

After making his exit from Albert Mission School in that theatrical manner (on the day following the strike), Swaminathan became so consistently stubborn that a few days later his father took him to the Board School and admitted him there. At first Swaminathan was rather uncertain of his happiness in the new school. But he excited the curiosity that all new-comers do, and found himself to his great satisfaction the centre of attraction in Second C. All his new class-mates, remarkably new faces, often clustered round him to see him and hear him talk. He had not yet picked the few that he would have liked to call his chums. He still believed that his Albert Mission set was intact, though, since the reopening in June, the set was not what it had been before.

Fill in the boxes in the table with examples from the passage.

Changed Words	Way of Change	Inflexion (I)/Derivation (D)
making	Make (V) + progressive	I
theatrical	Theatre (N) + adj. marker	D

ANSWERS

Changed Words	Way of Change	Inflexion (I)/Derivation (D)
making	Make (V) + progressive	I
theatrical	Theatre (N) + adj. marker	D
following	Follow (V) + prog. marker	I
became	Become (V) + past tense	I
consistently	Consistent (A) + Adv marker	D
days	Day (N) + plural marker	I

took	Take (V) + past tense	I
admitted	Admit (V) + past tense	I
excited	Excite (V) + past tense	I
happiness	Happy (A) + noun marker	D
curiosity	Curious (A) + noun marker	D
comers	Come (V) + noun marker	D
found	Find (V) + past tense	I
himself	Him (Pronoun) + reflexive	I

class-mates	Class-mate (N) + plural	I
remarkably	Remarkable (A) + adverb marker	D
faces	Face (N) + plural marker	I
clustered	Cluster (V) + past tense	I
picked	Pick (V) + past tense	I
would	Will (V) + past tense	I
liked	Like (V) + participial marker	I

chums	Chum (N) + plural marker	I
believed	Believe (V) + past tense marker	I
reopening	Reopen (V) + progress marker	I
had	Have (V) + past tense	I
been	Be (V) + perfective marker	I
satisfaction	Satisfy (V) + noun marker	D
attraction	Attract (V) + noun marker	D

Additional work- Create some of your own exercises.

Thank You!

