



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

Copyright and terms of use

IIT Madras is the sole owner of the content available in this portal - onlinedegree.iitm.ac.in and the content is copyrighted to IIT Madras.

- Learners may download copyrighted material for their use for the purpose of the online program only.
- Except as otherwise expressly permitted under copyright law, no use other than for the purpose of the online program is permitted.
- No copying, redistribution, retransmission, publication or exploitation, commercial or otherwise of material will be permitted without the express permission of IIT Madras.
- Learner acknowledges that he/she does not acquire any ownership rights by downloading copyrighted material.
- Learners may not modify, publish, transmit, participate in the transfer or sale, create derivative works, or in any way exploit, any of the content, in whole or in part.

English- I (Basic English)
Professor Shreesh Chaudhary
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai
What is Good Vocabulary - Part 3

(Refer Slide Time: 0:14)



WHAT IS GOOD VOCABULARY- PART 3



In the earlier sessions, we have seen that what is generally known as vocabulary is not just words; it also includes our knowledge about words; it includes our knowledge of words and knowledge about words. So, for instance, we know that a college is a noun. So, we not only know the word college, but we also know that it is a noun, we also know that it is a singular noun, we know that it is a bisyllabic word, we know it is spelt in a certain manner, you have C at the beginning of the word and E at the end of the word, we know your spelling, we know how it follows. We know what word can come after this.

After college, it is a noun, we can further modify it we say we can say college of commerce, or commerce college or we can say College of Engineering or we can say engineering college, these collocations, and then we need a verb then we will have to say college teaches higher skills, skills which are higher than those taught in schools. So, all these things, knowledge of words and knowledge about words constitute makes our vocabulary; all this knowledge together makes our vocabulary.

So, we have already seen that a good vocabulary, by large generally speaking, has lots of words, a variety of words. Things like synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homonyms, then we not only know these synonyms and antonyms, we also know collocation, which word goes with which word you know. When we have a verb, it is generally followed by a noun. Drink is a verb. Now, it cannot take all nouns. It is followed by solid, liquid nouns. Drink milk, drink water, drink tea, drink coffee like that. It goes if it is 8, then it requires a solid noun. To follow it, eats pudding, eats biscuit, eats cake, eats mutton, eats fish, eats rice, eats vegetables. That is how it goes. So, we also know that. Go next.

(Refer Slide Time: 3:21)



Collocation- How any word can relate to other words.



This is what collocation and we spoke about collocation. Now, how any word goes with other words? If you have a verb and you want to describe it, how in what manner he walked? Did he walk slow or fast? Was he walking happily or sadly? So, you know, can modify, adverbs can modify verbs. So, collocation is the combination of words, and there are constraints; it is not that any word can occur with any other word; it can occur only with certain words; only certain words can occur with any other word. There are conventions, there are rules, and all those that have a good vocabulary know these things next.

(Refer Slide Time: 4:27)



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.



Then there is something else. Final, no word is used in isolation, except perhaps in a very highly specific context. In the armed forces, the commander can say 'go,' that is a sentence by itself. 'Run, stop, halt, turn, move, shoot, aim, fire', that is a very specific kind of vocabulary. But ordinarily speaking, in our everyday life, we do not speak words generally in isolation; we use them in context. Even what we saw in isolation is not in isolation. There is a

hidden sentence when the commander tells his soldiers run; he means to say you, gentlemen, please run. So, it comes in a context.

In ordinary life, the context is very explicitly described in ordinary language. We always speak in sentences, in phrases, longer discourses, we write in paragraphs. Their words do not occur the way they are cited in a dictionary; look at the text before us look at this highlighted paragraph, take your time read it. Change.

(Refer Slide Time: 6:20)

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



A lot of words in the paragraph do not occur the way they have incited in any dictionary; their form changes. So, for instance, in this text, we have something called weeks. In the dictionary, it was cited as a week, but here, it has become week, plus plural, it is a noun, it takes a plural to say, several weeks, six weeks, ten weeks. So, ten had changed it. Several had changed it; many had changed it. You cannot say many week, we say many weeks. You cannot say ten week; of course in a specific phrase, you can say it is a ten week guarantee period. Because you are there, you know, both ten and week, go with guarantee, which together modify period.

But that is a different context. When it occurs when week occurs by itself as a noun, then you have ten weeks, six weeks, four weeks, two weeks, many weeks, a few weeks, so it changes. Take another word later. Late is an adjective which means after the expected time, later means more after the expected time, somebody who is late came at 10:30 he was expected at 10, somebody who came later came at 10:35. So, the other, the verb, the noun, or the verb, the adverb has, in this case, verb, he came late. So, late is the adverb for the verb came, later is also the same thing.

John came later, Mary came late, and John came later, or Aravind came late. Sham came later; we can say that. Similarly, came, the dictionary does not sight came the dictionary says, Come, it is a verb, but here, as happens in all languages, the verb can change for also according to tense, since the speaker here wants to use it in the past tense form so, come had changed to came.

The point I am making is words do not exist; sometimes they do, when no change is required, but sometimes, words occur in a changed form, not in isolation, not as they were given in a dictionary. You can look at other words, forgave it in the dictionary it was forgive, but here it occurs as forgave past and sins, in dictionary it is sin, singular, but here it is plural Sin plus plural next.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:03)

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



Starting the dictionary says start, but here a progressive mode marker, the action is in progress has been added. So, it is starting. Similarly, political it has come out of politics, the politics is a noun, but because here something is to be described, what kind of activities did Swami get in, go back to the paragraph, what kind of activities did Swami get in third line middle of the centre line Swami got into political activities.

So, activities is a noun, and it is being modified by the adjective political whereas, however, the political will made by changing politics from noun to adjective, when it was politics a noun, we added other two letters, other two sounds and made it 'al' so, it became political, it became an adjective to qualify a noun. So, words change their form in a sentence in use in context, look at acquisition which has come from acquire, meant has come from mean go next.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:45)

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



Like that you know, you can check, go next.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:56)

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”.



Now, you may have noticed that there are two kinds of changes, there are two sorts of changes. In many cases, the cited word was a verb and here in use in the paragraph, it is still (remain) retained as a verb. Say, for instance, a start with a verb starting it is a verb, sin was a noun, sins it is still a noun. So, you know, there are some changes where a verb remains a verb. Though there may be some minor changes in it, if it was in the present tense, it change in past tense come became came from forgive, we got forgave' come, came; forgive, forgave. So, some changes were still there, but it was still a verb.

The noun was still a noun, though some change happened. For example, singular nouns sin became plural noun sins, activity was singular, but in the plural, it became activities. So, some changes still there. But a noun still remains a noun, a verb still remains a verb, an

adjective is still relate is an adjective or an adverb, and it still remains an adjective or an adverb. So, there are though changes, but there are some other changes, and it happens in all languages of the world.

In all-natural languages of the world, be the Arabic or Persian or Chinese or Sanskrit, no matter Latin or Greek, no matter what language words in context, sometimes change the dictionary form, they do not occur, sometimes in the dictionary form, because of the word that has gone before or because of some words that are likely to come later. And these changes that words undergo can be of two different kinds. One, where a verb remains a verb, a noun remains a noun, and an adjective remains an adjective, in spite of some minor changes.

But there can be another kind of change where a verb can become look at the third bullet point where the verb can become a noun, such as when you say, driver. Now driver is a noun, which has come out of the verb called 'drive'. Or nouns can become a verb. Say, for example, 'person' is a noun. And you can have a verb called personify, nation is a noun, national is an adjective that had been that has been derived from the noun called 'nation'. But national adjective itself can change into a verb, we get nationalise, and it can further become a noun. We can say nationalisation.

So, all languages have these processes, processes of deriving a new word out of an existing word. We will talk in some greater detail about that a little later, but at this moment, I want us to understand that words undergo two kinds of changes in a context, in a sentence. In many cases, their category does not change. A verb remains a verb, a noun remains a noun, and an adjective remains an adjective, or adverb, remains an adverb. But in some cases, it changes; a noun can become a verb, a verb can become a noun, an adjective can become a verb, a verb can become an adjective or an adverb; all of these possibilities exist.

'Slow' is an adjective; it can become slowly, 'hard' is an adjective; it can become hardly, you know, all that is possible. So, there are two kinds of changes. One can be called category retaining changes, where categories do not change, and the other is category changing changes, the category changes, turn next. Come back previous. So, those where the verb remains a verb. If there is any change there, and it still remains a verb, if there is any change there, it still remains a noun. There is any change there; it still remains an adjective.

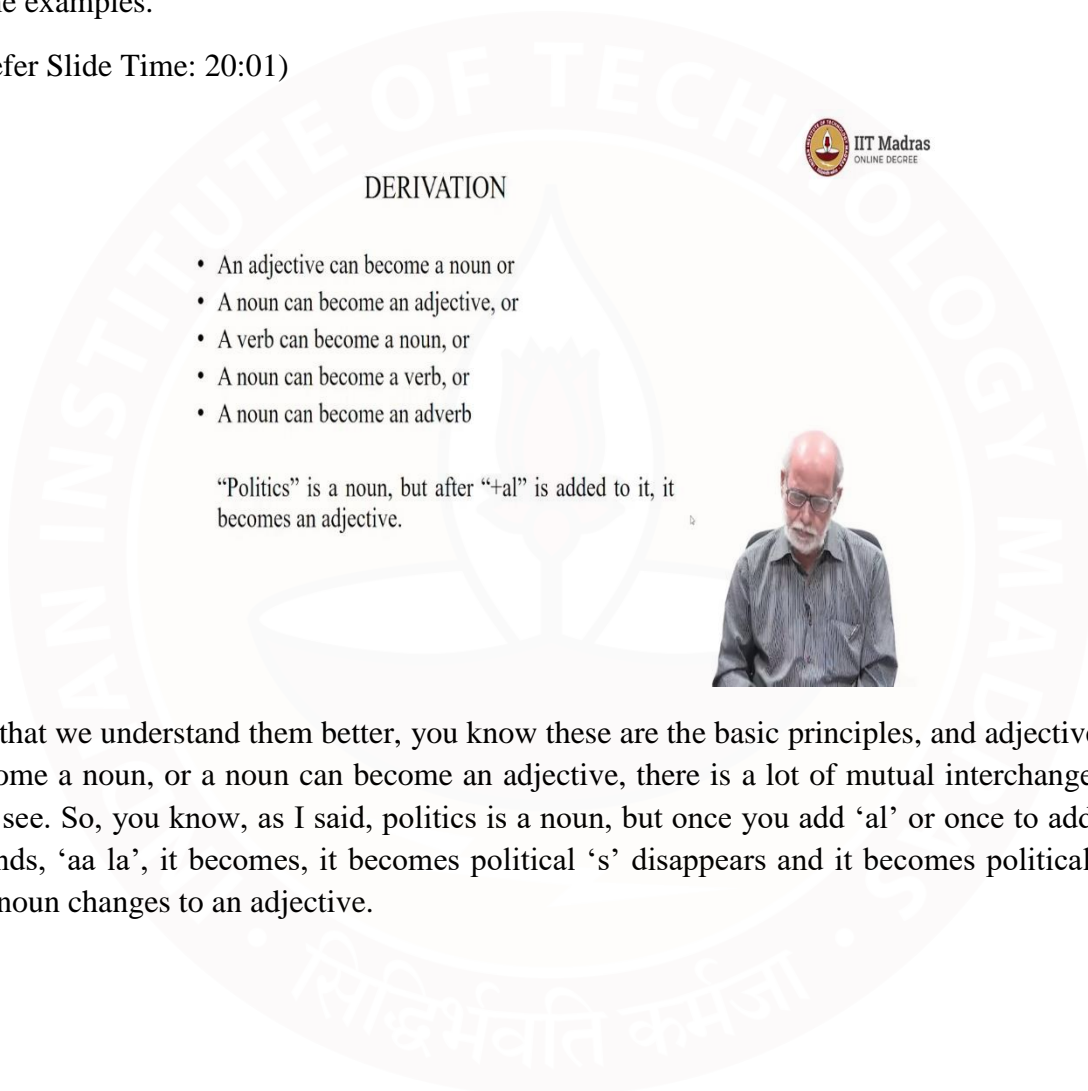
Like late was allergic to later was also an adjective. Late was late is an adverb; later is also an adverb. They came late, and they came later. So, late and later, both are adverbs. Though their degree has changed from positive, late is positive, later is comparative. The latest would-be superlative. A last would be superlative. Mary came late, John came later, and Simon came last. Last is superlative. But they are all adverse even now; Mary came, came is a verb, late, late modifies the verb. So, it still remains a verb; some changes have occurred. Verbs undergo changes of tense, verbs undergo changes of voice, verbs undergo changes of tense, etcetera, adjectives undergo changes of degrees, nouns undergo changes of number person.

There are these two kinds of changes where one is where a noun or a verb or an adjective or an adverb still remains an adverb, in spite of some minor changes, and we saw that these

minor changes in the case of the verb can be changed of tense or voice or aspect, in the case of noun it can be changed as of number or person, in the case of adjectives and adverbs it can be a change of degrees.

But there also are cases where a verb becomes a noun, and we saw that driver is derived out of drive. Personify comes out of person. So, person is noun, for verb is personified. Personal is an adjective; it comes from noun called person. So, there are this other kinds of change, where the category changes where the verb becomes a noun, the noun becomes adjective, adjectives become adverb, adverb becomes a verb, that sort of thing. Let us see, let us look at some examples.


(Refer Slide Time: 20:01)



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.



So, that we understand them better, you know these are the basic principles, and adjective can become a noun, or a noun can become an adjective, there is a lot of mutual interchange you can see. So, you know, as I said, politics is a noun, but once you add ‘al’ or once to add two sounds, ‘aa la’, it becomes, it becomes political ‘s’ disappears and it becomes political. So, the noun changes to an adjective.

(Refer Slide Time: 20:36)

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)



Next, look at some examples you know, the given word is politics, the dictionary tells you gives you politics, but in the context here it has become political or Rajam forgave all political activities of Swami, acquire changes to acquisition, slow changes to slowness, stupid changes to stupidity, mind changes to mental, but look at that kind of change. Politics which are noun as become political adjective, acquire that was a verb has become acquisition, which is a noun, slow that was an adjective has become a noun slowness, stupid which is an adjective has become stupidity which is a noun, mind which was a noun has become an adjective, which is mental.

So, all of these varieties of changes interchanges happen of words within a sentence, and anyone who claims to have a vocabulary, anyone who claims any knowledge of the language, knows these things. And therefore, it is important for us as students of the English language to know when which change can occur, what can be the form of change, and what can be a context of change. These two are also parts of our knowledge of language next.

(Refer Slide Time: 22:29)

ACTIVITY



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

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



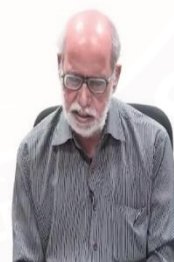
I am going to give you an example. Look at the extract below. And I am sure you know those words. If you do not, please look up a dictionary, you have a dictionary on your mobile phone, you have a dictionary on a laptop computer, we look up your dictionary and tell us number 1, which words have changed, it is not that all words change, some words have changed, which are those words that had one form in the dictionary, but here in the passage in the context, they occur in another form.

How have they changed? Have they..., what is the direction of what is the process of change? Has 'er' been added? Has 'al' been added? Has a known marker been added had adjective marker been added? Has the verb marker been added? What kind of change this word has undergone. And third and final, just tell us if this change is one of inflexion, a noun changing to a noun, a verb changing to a verb, or it is a derivation where a noun had changed to a verb, or a verb had changed to the noun.

So, look at the passage and let us look at the words, and number 1 say which words have changed. Number 2, tell us how they have changed—taking what losing what they have changed. And finally, tell us if these changes are one of inflexion verb remaining verb, noun remaining noun, adjective and adverb remaining adjective and adverb or it is a derivation. A verb has become a noun; a noun has become a verb, etcetera.

(Refer Slide Time: 24:26)

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.



Look at the passage. Take your time. This passage comes from RK Narayan's very popular early book, Swami and his friends. And I guess I think it is chapter 13. You will enjoy reading it, go to the next.

(Refer Slide Time: 24:50)



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



Look at the changes; these words have changed. I have not included those words that have not changed. But these words have changed; for example, making the original form of this word in the dictionary is make, but here progressive aspect marker that the action is in progress has been added. So, it is not make it is making. It is a change of inflexion. Similarly, theatrical, so theatre is noun, to this and objective marker, 'a l' 'al' has been added, so that it becomes theatrical. And a noun has become an adjective. Therefore, it is a change of derivation. next.

(Refer Slide Time: 25:49)

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



You can look at the changes; look at this fifth row consistently. A consistent is an adjective. By adding 'li', which is an adverb marker, the speaker, the writer changes it to consistently, which is an adjective changing to an adverb. So, it is a derivation, it has it is a change of derivation, but days, day in the dictionary is cited as a noun, here you have added a plural

marker to make it days not one day not two it is two days, three days and because a noun still remains a noun, it is a change of inflexion, not of derivation, next.

(Refer Slide Time: 26:51)

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



Look at it next.

(Refer Slide Time: 26:59)

Additional work- Create some of your own exercises.



These things are pretty mechanical; machines can be programmed to give you output in this manner, you can give it any text and following certain algorithms, the machine can read that text and can tell you which word has changed in which manner and whether it is a change of inflexion or derivation. You can also create some exercises for any book, practically technical or literary or any talk technical or literary from the internet is alright, take that text and create some of your own exercises.

Randomly pick out a few lines and look at the words and say, these words have changed from their dictionary citation. And then what kinds of change is that? How, what is the process of

change? This kind of exercise will not only reinforce your teaching, it will become stronger, you will become more confident of yourself, and you will also understand the process of change, how and why languages and words in a context change; is the change random anything anywhere anyway.

Usually, nothing like that happens in nature. All Changes in nature, including those in languages, are regulated changes. They occur under certain principles, certain laws, certain rules; it is only that we do not understand them generally. Thank you very much.

