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**WORD EASILY CONFUSED**

**Exam's question ((Very Important)**

**Explain the difference in meaning between the words in each of these groups:**

Take it in turns to explain the differences in meaning between each of these pairs of words. Write sentences to help you to remember any tricky ones. The first pair is done as an example.

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| anniversary | **the day on which an important event happened in a previous year:**  *It was their 25th wedding anniversary last week.* | birthday | **the day that is exactly a year or number of years after a person was born:**  *It's her 21st birthday.* |
| cancel | **to decide that an organized event will not happen, or to stop an order for goods or services**  **that you no longer want:**  *The 7.10 bus to Ilam has been cancelled.* | postpone | **to delay an event and plan  or decide that it should happen at a later date or time:**  *They decided to postpone their holiday****until***  *next year.* |
| collaborate | **to work with someone else for a special purpose:**  *Two writers collaborated****on****the*  *script for the film.* | cooperate | **to act or work together for a particular purpose, or to be helpful by doing what someone asks you to do:**  *The Spanish authorities cooperated****with****the British police****in****find****ing****the terrorists.* |
| complement | **to make something else seem better or more attractive when combining with it:**  *The music complements her voice perfectly.* | compliment | **a remark that expresses approval, admiration, or respect:**  *I****take it as****a compliment when people say I look like my mother.* |
| cook | **When you cook food, you prepare it to be eaten by heating it in a particular way, such as baking or boiling, and when food cooks, it is heated until it is ready to eat:**  *I don't cook meat very often.*  **someone who prepares and cooks food:**  She's a wonderful cook. | cooker | **a large box-shaped device that is used to cook and heat food, either by putting the food inside or by putting it on the top:**   * *We bought a new cooker.* |

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| desert | **an area, often covered with sand or**  **rocks, where there is very little rain and not many plants:**  *They were lost****in****the desert for nine days.* | dessert | **sweet food eaten at the end of a meal:**  *If you make the main course, I'll make a dessert.* |
| economical | **not using a lot of fuel, money, etc.:**   * *This central heating system is extremely economical to run.* | economic | **making a profit, or likely to make a profit:**  *We had to close our London office - with the rent so high it just wasn't economic.* |
| experience | **knowledge or skill from doing, seeing, or feeling things:**  *The best way to learn is****by****experience* | experiment | **a test done in order to learn something or to discover if something works or is true:**  *Some people believe that experiments****on****animals should be banned.* |
| fantasy | **a pleasant situation that you enjoy thinking about but is unlikely to happen**  *Steve's favorite fantasy was to own a big house and a flashy car.* | imagination | **something that you think exists or is true, although in fact it is not real or true:**  *Is it my imagination or is Sita behaving strangely at the moment?* |
| historic | **important or likely to be important in history:**  *In a historic vote, the Church of England decided to allow women to become priests.* | historical | **connected with studying or representing things from the past:**  *She specializes in historical novels set in 18th-century England.* |
| homework | **work that teachers give their students to do at home:**  *You can't watch TV until you've****done****your homework.* | housework | **the work of keeping a house clean and tidy:**  *I hate****doing****housework.* |
| immigration | **to come into another country to live permanently:**  *After you've been through immigration****(control)****, you can go and get your luggage.* | emigration | **to leave one's country to live in another:**  *The switch from emigration to immigration in Portugal has largely been caused by its economic growth.* |

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| memory | **the ability to remember information, experiences, and people:**  *After the accident he suffered from loss of memory.* | souvenir | **something you buy or keep to help you remember a holiday or special event:**  *We brought back a few souvenirs from our holiday in Mexico.* |
| menu | **a list of the food that you can eat in a restaurant:**  *The restaurant has a long menu of about 50 items.* | set meal | **a complete meal in a restaurant or café for a stated price with a limited number of options:**  *I'll have the set menu.* |
| noise | **a sound or sounds, especially**  **when it is unwanted, unpleasant, or loud:**  *I heard a loud noise and ran to the window.* | sound | **something that you can hear or that can be heard:**  *Suddenly we heard a loud knocking sound from the engine.* |
| personal | **relating or belonging to a single or particular person rather than to a group or an organization:**  *Her uncle takes a personal interest in her progress.* | personnel | **the people who are employed in a company, organization, or one of the armed forces:**  *The new director is likely to make major changes in personnel.* |
| principal | **first in order of importance:**  *Iraq's principal export is oil.*  **The person in charge of a school**  **or college**  ***Mr. Shyam is our principal of the College.*** | principle | **a basic idea or rule that explains or controls how something happens or works:**  *The organization works****on the****principle****that****all members have the same rights.* |
| receipt | **a piece of paper that proves that money, goods, or information have been received:**   * *Keep your receipt as proof of purchase.* | recipe | **a set of instructions telling you how to prepare and cook food, including a list of what food is needed for this:**  *For real South Asian food, just****follow****these recipes.* |
| rob | **to take money or property illegally from a place, organization, or person, often using violence:**  *The terrorists financed themselves by robbing banks.* | steal | **to take something without the permission or knowledge  of the owner and keep it:**  *She admitted stealing the money****from****her employers.* |
| satisfactory | **good or good enough for a particular need or purpose:**  *The teachers seem to think his*  *work is satisfactory.* | satisfying | **making you feel pleased by providing what you need or want:**  *It is very satisfying to know that the project was a success.* |
| stationary | **not moving, or not changing:**  *The rate of inflation has been stationary for several months.* | stationery | **the things needed for writing, such as paper, pens, pencils, and envelopes**:   * *The department has urged learners to use books and stationery from last year until new materials are delivered.* |
| stranger | **A person whom one does not know or with whom one is not familiar:**  He must have been a stranger to the village. | foreigner | **A person born in or coming from a country other than one's own:**   * *All foreigners and outsiders, however, were suspect in everybody's eyes.* |
| sympathetic | **Feeling, showing, or expressing sympathy:**  He spoke in a sympathetic tone. | likeable | **pleasant, friendly, and easy to like:**   * *‘Often times I have noted that it is very popular and likeable people that die young.’* |
| tasteful | **chosen with a knowledge of what is appealing, attractive, appropriate, or enjoyable : having or showing good taste**  *Her remarks were very tasteful.*  *The hotel has been tastefully furnished.* | tasty | **(of food) having a pleasant, distinct flavor.**   * *The food that was served at the party was very tasty.* |

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| **actually:**  **in fact or really:**  *I didn't actually see her - I just heard her voice.* | **at present: the period of time that is happening now, not the past or the future:**  *That's all for the present.* | **presently: now; at the present time:**  *Of 200 boats, only 20 are presently operational.*  *Three sites are presently under consideration for the new hotel.* | **nowadays: at the present time, in comparison to the past:**  *Who remembers those movies nowadays?*  *Nowadays, I bake my own bread rather than buy it.* |
| **alive: living, not dead:**  *He must be 90 if he's****still****alive.*  *Doctors****kept****him alive on a life-support machine.* | **living: alive now:**  *living organisms*  *He is probably the best-known living architect.* | **lively: full of energy and enthusiasm; interesting and exciting :**  *It's hard work teaching a class of lively children.* |  |
| **author: the writer of a book, article, play, etc.:**  *He is the author* ***of****two  books  on French history.* | **editor: a person who corrects or changes pieces of text or films before they are printed or shown, or a person who is in charge of a newspaper or magazine:**  *She's a senior editor in the reference department of a publishing company.*  *Who is the current editor of the Times?* | **printer: a machine that is connected to a computer and prints onto**  **paper using ink:**  ​  **a person whose job is to  print  books, newspapers, and magazines** | **publisher: an organization that publishes text or music**  ​  **an employee of a publishing company who has  responsibility for deciding what is published**   * *He sent the 400-page manuscript to his publisher.* |
| **broken: damaged, no longer able to work:**  *He attacked the man with a broken bottle.*  *My watch is broken.*  ​  **suffering emotional pain that is so strong that it changes the way you live, usually as a result of an unpleasant event:**  *He was****a****broken****man****after his wife died.* | **not working:** out of order | **out of order:**  not working properly : not able to be used   * The elevator's *out of order* again. |  |
| **destroy:** to damage something so badly that it cannot be used: Many important historical documents were destroyed in the fire. | **ruin: to spoil or destroy something completely:** | **spoil: to destroy or reduce the pleasure, interest, or beauty of something:**  *He tried not to let the bad news spoil his evening.* |  |
| **discussion: the activity in which people talk about something and tell each other their ideas or opinions:**  *We will****hold / have*** *discussions* ***with****employee representatives about possible redundancies.*  *The matter is still****under****discussion (= being considered).* | **argument:** **a disagreement, or the process of disagreeing:**  *The children****had****an argument* ***about/over****what game to play.*  *He****got into an****argument****with****Jeff in the pub last night.* | **row:** **a line of things, people, animals, etc. arranged next to each other:**  *a row of houses /books/ plants/ people/horses*  *We had seats****in****the front/back row****of****the theatre.* | **quarrel: an angry disagreement between two or more people or groups:**  *They****had****a bitter quarrel****about/over****some money three years ago and they haven't spoken to each other since.* |
| **elder: an older person, especially one with a respected position in society:**  *You should listen to the advice of your elders.* | **older: having lived or existed for many years:**  *an old man*  *We're all****getting****older.* | **elderly: old people considered as a group:**  *The city is building new housing  for the elderly.* |  |
| **guard: a person or group of people whose job is to protect a person, place, or thing from danger or attack, or to prevent a person such as a criminal from escaping:**  *There are guards posted at every entrance.* | **guardian:** **a person who has the legal right and responsibility of taking care of someone who cannot take care of himself or herself, such as a child whose parents have died:**  *The child's parents or guardians must give their consent before she has the operation.* | **attendant: someone whose job is to be in a place and help visitors or customers:** The **attendant** made a hopeless gesture. |  |
| **husband:** a male partner in a marriage  *I've never met Sita's husband.* | **bridegroom: a man who is about to get married or has just got married:**  *The bridegroom was late for the ceremony.* | **fiancé: the man who someone is engaged to be married to:**  *Have you met Christina's fiancé?* | **boyfriend:** **a man or boy that a person is having a romantic or sexual relationship with:**  *He's not my boyfriend - we're just good friends!* |
| **leave**: **to go away from someone or something, for a short time or permanently:**  *I'll be leaving at five o'clock tomorrow.*  **to not take something or someone with you when you go, either intentionally or by accident:**  *Can I leave a message****for****Sue?* | **lie:** to be in or put yourself into a flat position  *I love to****lie****on a beach and read.* | **let:** Permission  *She****let****me look at the photos.* | **lay:** put something down carefully in a flat position  *Shall I****lay****the tray on the bed?* |
| **marriage:**  **a legally accepted relationship between two people in which they live together**   * *They got*[*divorced*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/divorced)*after only six*[*months*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/month)*of marriage.* | **wedding:**  **a marriage ceremony and any celebrations such as a meal or a party that follow it:**  *It was their 25th wedding anniversary last week.* | **engagement:**  **an agreement to marry someone:**  *They****announced****their engagement at the party on Saturday.*  *an engagement****party*** | |
| nervous: **worried and anxious:**  *Do you****feel*** *nervous during exams?* | anxious: **worried and nervous:**  *I saw my sister's anxious face at the window.* | neurotic: **behaving strangely or in an anxious (= worried and nervous) way, often because you have a mental illness:**  *neurotic behavior/tendencies*  *She's neurotic****about****her weight - she weighs herself three times a day.* | |
| notice: **(a board, piece of paper, etc. containing) information or instructions:**  *There was a large notice on the wall saying "No Parking".* | note: **a short piece of writing:**  *He left a note to say he would be home late.* | memo: **a message or other information in writing sent by one person or department to another in the same business organization:**  *Did you get my memo about the meeting?* | |
| outlook: **a person's way of understanding and thinking about something:**  *He has a fairly positive outlook****on****life.* | view: **an opinion, belief, or idea, or a way of thinking about something:** *Everyone will have a chance to****make****their views****known****at the meeting.* | scenery: **the general appearance of the natural environment,  especially when it is beautiful:**  *beautiful/breathtaking/spectacular scenery*  *They stopped at the top of the hill to****admire****the scenery.* | landscape: **a large area of countryside, especially in relation to its appearance:**  *The landscape is dotted with the tents of campers and hikers.* |
| possibility: **a chance that something may happen or be true:**  *The forecast said that there's a possibility****of****snow tonight.* | chance: **an occasion that allows something to be done:**  *I didn't****get*** *a chance to speak to her.* | opportunity: **an occasion or situation that makes it possible to do something that you want to do or have to do, or the possibility of doing something:**  *Everyone will****have****an opportunity to comment.* | |
| print: **letters, numbers, or symbols that have been produced on paper by a machine using ink:**  *The title is in bold print.* | publish: **to make information available to people, especially in a book, magazine, or newspaper, or to produce and sell a book, magazine, or newspaper:**  *She's just had an article published in their weekend supplement.* | distribute:  **to give something out to several people, or to spread or supply something:**  *The books will be distributed free****to****local schools.* | edit: **to make changes to a text or film, deciding what will be removed and what will be kept in, in order to prepare it for being printed or shown:**  *Janet edited books for a variety of publishers.* |
| professor: **a teacher of the highest rank in a department of a British university, or a teacher of high rank in an American university or college:**   * *She's a professor of nutrition at Columbia University.* | lecturer:  **someone who teaches at a college or university:**  He’s a **lecturer** at the University. | teacher: s**omeone whose job is to teach in a school or college:**   * *There is a shortage of teachers, especially in music and science.* | tutor: **teacher who teaches a child outside of school, especially in order to give the child extra help with a subject they find difficult:**  *His parents got him a tutor to help with his maths.* |
| propaganda: **information, ideas, opinions, or images, often only giving one part of an argument, that are broadcast, published, or in some other way spread with the intention of influencing people's opinions:**  *One official dismissed the ceasefire as a mere propaganda exercise.* | advertising: **the business of trying to persuade people to buy products or services:**   * *He has a high-pressure job in advertising.* | publicity:  **the activity of making certain that someone or something attracts a lot of interest or attention from many people, or the attention received as a result of this activity:**  *Her first novel was published last year with a lot of publicity.* |  |
| shadow: **an area of darkness, caused by light being blocked by something:**  *The children were playing, jumping on each other's shadows.* | shade: **slight darkness caused by something blocking the direct**  **light from the sun:**  *The sun was hot, and there were no trees to offer us shade.* | shelter:  **(a building designed to give) protection from bad weather, danger, or attack:**  *an air-raid shelter*  *They opened a shelter to provide temporary housing for the city's homeless.* |  |
| thousand: **a large number:**  *I have a thousand things to do before we go away.*  **the number 1,000:**  *The population of the village is about three thousand.* | million:  **a large number:**  *I must have told you a million times to close the windows when you leave the house.*  **the number 1,000,000:**  *The city has a population of almost a/one million.* | billion  **the number 1,000,000,000:**  *The population of China is over a/one billion.*  **a very large number:**  *There were billions of flies everywhere.* |  |
| wife: a female partner in a marriage   * *I seem to remember that on that occasion he was with his wife.* | bride: **a woman who is about to get married or has just got married:**  *He returned from New York with his lovely****new****bride.* | fiancée  **the woman who someone is engaged to be married to:**  *It was the letter he had received from his fiancée a year ago.* | girlfriend: **a woman or girl who a person is having a romantic or sexual relationship with:**   * *Bill arrived at the party with his new girlfriend on his arm.* |
| wounded: **people who are injured:**  *Ambulances took the wounded to nearby hospitals.* | injured: **hurt or physically harmed:**  *She was told to stay in bed to rest her injured back.* | hurt: **to feel pain in a part of your body, or to injure someone or cause them pain:**  *Tell me where it hurts.* |  |