

**English Language for Competitive Exams**  
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**Week - 07**  
**Lecture - 32**  
**Latin terms in English Vocabulary**

Good morning. In our last class we were talking about words that trace the origins to meaning, to the names of certain important people in our history, and how they have come to form an important part, a significant part of our regular vocabulary.

Now I am going to move on to those Latin words, which have become very significant to a day to day speech in writing, as well as in speaking, and generally in higher order kind of writing. Remember the English language has borrowed several words from other languages including French, German, Greek, and also languages from many parts of India including Hindi. So, English as I told you in the last class is a very, let us say adaptive and flexible language, that takes that is open to accepting words from all over the world.

So, Latin of course, was one of the most prominent languages in ancient times, English borrows a lot from Latin. So, the first word that I wanted to discuss is, a fortiori, fortiore. It means for the more compelling reasons all the more. Now this does not mean that you insert or impose these words anywhere as in, you know even in those situations we do not ask for such vocabulary. It is heavy sounding, but you have to be very comfortable with these kinds of words and expressions, in order to use in your writing or speaking; otherwise the result could be unintentionally funny, creating a comic situation, using words were, they are not really needed.

So, we are talking basically about developing vocabulary. So, I cannot be giving a simple words, I need to familiarize you with more complex vocabulary; however, this does not mean that you use these words in any which way you want to. So, please keep these ideas or suggestance in mind when you write. In reading you will come across these expressions very frequently.

Next word is ad nauseum n a u s e u m adnauseum, which means to a sickening or disgusting degree; nausea you know originally meant sickness. So, anything that

suggests something to disgusting degree nausea was originally kind of sea sicknesses, you get nausea if you are on board on ship. So, this is the sickening or disgusting feeling. Next word is alterego- a l t e r e g o, which means a second self. You are somebody's alter ego, which means you are almost like a second version of that person, a bosom friend, very close friend, an alter ego. Next word is amicus, amicus curiae, a friend of the court. A person who voluntarily, a voluntarily or at the request of a judge gives advice or presents a brief in a case in which is not legally involved. So, he becomes a friend of the court, amicus curiae. Next word is annus mirabilis- a n n u s annus mirabilis m i r a b i l i s, which means a wonderful year; a year in which great events took place or take place, a wonderful year annus mirabilis.

Next word is antebellum a n t e b e l l u m, which means before the war, applies specifically or specially to the period before the American civil war, American civil war 1861 to 65, period before that is antebellum, before the war. Next word is, look at this, a posteriori, which is reasoning based on observed facts, a very popular word. Latin has become a very common language, especially in a judicial system, and many of our journalists, they are very fond of using words from the Latin language. This I come across very frequently in newspapers and higher order magazines; so a posteriori, reasoning based on absorbing facts. It applies to conclusions arrived at after; that is post, the study of the facts, which also means inductive reasoning, this is opposite to a priori.

A posteriori after a priori, reasoning based on general principle, it is not supported by factual study. This is a priori reading or reasoning, and this is a posteriori reasoning, and actually a posteriori is superior to a priori; that is the way you have to remember, after is better than without. Next word is bona fide b o n a f i d e, which means in good faith, without fraud, true blue, genuine, honest, everything that is good. So, you are freedom from, free from deceit, a fraud.

So, bona fide, we also say bona fide certificate. Now this you may have come across very frequently in school or job purpose or something, you get a bona fide certificate, which is a certificate which is honest, and is not trying to deceive the potential employee, or people who are, the potential employer and people perhaps who are giving you admission in some colleges or schools so bona fide certificate, honesty, mark of honesty.

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Next word is casus belli, which is an event or situation used as a pretext for going to war, a cause of war, so casus belli; an excuse to go to war, a situation used as a pretext to going to war. Next word is caveat emptor c a v e a t c a v e a t e m p t o r, which means let the buyer beware, it is a legal phrase, implying the purchaser buys a product at it is own risk, caveat emptor. Next word is cui bono; cui bono was first used by a roman magistrate to indicate that in every crime one must look for the purpose, for the person who is stands to gain by the crime, for whose good, for what purpose.

So, cui bono, it is a legalese, for whose good. Defecto, again a very commonly use, it almost the frequency with which it appears, it almost the looks as if it is an English word, a word from English language d e f a c t o, which means functioning, something which is functioning in reality, defacto government is one which is setup an exist in fact. Although it is not yet recognized legally yours, but it is the facto, it is. In fact, it is in reality, the word facto should give you the indication facto d e f a c t o.

Next very commonly use one; it has also become an important part in drama and theatre, deus ex machine, Greek theatre whenever thinks would go wrong, they would employ the device of gods appearing on stage, using a certain kind of machine. So, gods from, the idea was to send out a suggestion; that gods are appearing from heavens to earth, in order to address a situation, intervention of gods are necessary. So, a god or goddess would appear on the Greek stage in a tragedy, in to view via crane. So, they would come

down by via crane. The duty of this character was to open the ritual of the tragedy or to bring the action to a quite close. Now the appearance of the god was interpreted by some critics; like Horace who was roman poet, as a proof that the dramatist had so piled a complication that he needed divine intervention to untangle the situation.

Now, we say you know a person, who solves a problem artificially, is called deus ex machine. In films we often used this character appears like a deus ex machine, there was you know logically not possible, but introduce in order to give certain kind of closure to the situation, to the action to the plot. Next word is *dramatis personae* *d r a m a t i s* *personae p e r s o n a e* characters in a play. So, we often say *dramatis personae* in the entire scandal. There is big scam in who are the characters here originally it denotes, it stood for characters in a play.

Now we use it very freely very loosely; so chief actors or chief players in a dramatic series of events. Next word *emeritus* *e m e r i t u s*, an *emeritus* was a roman veteran, a soldier who had completed his term of service, and had obtained his discharge. So, *emerio* (Refer Time: 12:54) something that is obtained by service; therefore, we get the word *emeritus*. Today the word is used or applied to a (Refer Time: 13:03), to even university professors, college presidents or any other official who is retired from service, because of age, but still retains his rank or title in a non official capacity.

So, university or educational institutes have *emeritus* professors retired, but still hold the ranks and position. Next word is *ergo* *e r g o*, very commonly used sometimes even in a appropriately in hilariously, although intension or unintentional comedy, so comic effects, but it means therefore. you do not really have to use a word like a go where ever you want to, but people do these things, and you should in get confused while reading in English a competitive exams, perhaps you may be given one of these words and you should get thrown off your balance, because you do not know the meaning of these words. So, try to retain these words in your memory. Next word is *ex cathedra*; it means from the chair cathedral, you know office or the center where the highest presides it. So, from the chair by the authority, someone in position someone has declared an order *ex cathedra*.

Next word *ex officio* *o f f i c i o*, which means by virtue of one's office, when an office of an organization is on a comity *ex officio*, it means that is office automatically

includes, is being a member of a comity, he is the ex officio member. Next word is exposed facto ex e x posed, posed facto f a c t o, which means from a thin done after the event or deed. So, it also means retroactive, generally applied to a law passed after the offence with which it is concerned has been committed. So, the first crime, an offence has been committed people also taken aback, by the magnitude of that there has to be a law now, to prevent or at least to punish this; so exposed facto, after a thing has been done. Next is flagrante delicto, it means in the very act, caught red handed while the crime is still on. So, flagrante delicto, same word, one word I mean.

As I told you, you cannot have, or cannot prepare for such exams one night before the exam, or even one month before the exam. Developing vocabulary is very difficult task, especially those who do not have a background of English language, a lifelong background of English language. So, if you need to develop it; it will take a couple of months, years would be great, but at least you need some months to prepare now. One month is never enough to have a wide range of vocabulary, you have to use it, practice it, and you merge yourself.

This is not to say that forget your mother tongue, but if you are not using it regularly, language would not happen. if you want to develop this kind of vocabulary, and many of you may feel what is the purpose, but then you have opt it for a course like this so; that means, there is a motivation, there is a desire in you to develop your vocabulary, take it from one level to the next, which means you have to practice. So, if these words are foreign to you, the new to you, then you need to practice them on a regular basis.

Now, that I have introduce these words to you, if you do not know them, and if you want to know more about them you have to look up the dictionary is the way these words are used. So, do not just throw flagrante delicto anywhere, it has otherwise as I said if you do not know where you are using it, it will appear very funny and the entire purpose will get defeated. Next word is in media res in media r e s res, this means in the middle of things, something has started in the middle, movie stars in the middle of some, you do not know the back story; so in media res without any preliminaries. Insitu i n s i t u, which means in place, in it is original place, which is a term used in geology and archeology, insitu, and intoto means entirely in full.

Next word is which is very commonly used magnum opus, midnight children is Salman Rushdie's magnum opus, it is a great work, a master piece, a crowning achievement. Geetanjali Ravindranath Tagore magnum opus, war and peace Leo Tolstoy's magnum opus, gone with the wind was David O Selznick, producer David O Selznick's magnum opus. Titanic is a movie magnum opus, a great work, master piece, crowning achievements, something that has taken in lot of research and efforts and industriousness. It is not an overnight thing, it has taken years of (Refer Time: 19:30) to create something, you have to work towards, to create magnum opuses you have to work towards that for years. Modus operandi is the manner or way of working; your modus operandi is very unethical I do not agree with it. So, it is a manner or a way of working.

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There is modus operandi, and then there is modus vivendi, modus operandi or modus vivendi. So, modus operandi means a manner of working, I do not agree with a modus operandi. His modus operandi is to, were down the opponent. And modus vivendi is manner of living; it is a way of getting along with another person, or nation despite basic differences. Next word is ne plus ultra, not more beyond it is the highest point of perfection. Ne plus ultra- n e p u l s, which is plus or ultra u l t r a, which means the highest point of perfection, you have reached ne plus ultra.

And there is a word called non-sequenter, which is very common in literature and language; non sequit, this means it does not follow, you say something I say what is the

time now, and the response is I am reading a book. So, it is not a response right, it does not follow. So, it applies to non sequitur applies to remarks or conclusions, we do have a logical connection with what has gone before. Sometimes we also use it in cinema, does not, it is non-sequester.

So, thank you very much, and in my next class I am going to practice words that have their origins in Greek mythology, which is going to be very interesting and full of riveting and (Refer Time: 22:24). So, see you soon.