

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Week - 07
Lecture - 34
Greek Names and Foreign words

Welcome back friends. We were talking about Greek names, names that are derived from Greek mythology. Greek mythology as we all know is extremely rich, I do suggest that you take a very good look at the names written, the words written here on the black board, many a time in higher order writing and reading, you do come across these names and since you are taking this course we of course, do not want you to get stuck at any point. So, these names are taken from Greek mythology, and they have come to become an integral part of our language.

So, the first word that I wanted to do with you today is apollonian. Apollonian relating to the Apollo; now you do come across this is a very common name you have Apollo stamped all over there are businesses industries, and several corporate which are named Apollo, even in our country what does it mean? See according to the Greek mythology Apollo was Greek God of course, related to the rational and ordered and self disciplined aspect of human nature, this is opposing or opposite to Dionysian.

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So, when you say apollonian which is based on order, reasoning and rationality, and the antonym is Dionysian, which is not irrational but more based on instincts and sciatic; instincts can be sciatic of course, we all know that human nature can be ordered and rational also, but it is very important that there has to be a balance between apollonian and Dionysian; Dionysian giving given too much to sensibilities, and Apollonian given too much to senses.

To have a common sense, Drain Austen writes sense and sensibility, there has to be too much of any one emotion or too much of a anyone instinctive is bad for us as that is what it is commonly believed. So, it is always between a struggle between cold apollonian categorization, and Dionysian kayos that is the way apollonian a decision was taken with apollonian rationality, or order that is the way it is used.

Next word is Adonis, Adonis a beautiful man in Greek mythology. Adonis comes out of the (Refer Time: 03:32) and naturally many women fell in love with him, most importantly someone called Aphrodite, the name is written somewhere over there Aphrodite yes in the extreme corner. Aphrodite she fell in love with the beautiful man and God is Aphrodite, sheltered Adonis as a new born baby and entrusted him to someone called Persephone. Now Persephone was also enameled of Adonis beauty, and refused to give him back to Aphrodite. So, there is a dispute between two beautiful women over the possession of this man. The dispute between the two Goddesses was settled by Zeus the supreme God.

Adonis then it was the decision was taken that Adonis has to spend one third of every year with each Goddess, and the third with whoever he take chooses. Adonis naturally was extremely proud of all the attention he was getting naturally, he was finally, killed by a wild borr; said to have been sent viciously by someone called and again this is a deity artimis, because Adonis was also an accomplished hunter. So, artimis all you must have come across several artimises bow and artimises, arrow those terms. So, he was a very skilled hunter and, but jealous of Adonis. So, the wild borr was sent by artimis to kill Adonis; Adonis beautiful man a beautiful youth, we do not call a beautiful woman, Adonis it is always for men.

Another word is Amazon; Amazon you are all familiar with its a very popular website, but mythologically it were amazons were a race of women warriors. So, we also call Amazonians a woman who is willing to or ready to fight. So, this is Amazonian woman.

Next word is Ambrosia the food of the Gods, so delicious, so wholesome, so nourishing Ambrosia. It can be used in several contexts, ambrosia this meal the meal is almost ambrosia of course, you know it is very archaic, people do not say this meal is ambrosia, but ambrosia fit to be a meal fit to be ambrosia for Gods. So, perhaps you may come across, it may also be used in a very satirical way you have to make up your minds you have to be very careful. See understand these words, know these words, learn these words they may appear occur anytime anywhere; as people who are interested in developing your language skills, this is important to know, these words are important to know.

So, next word is Cyclops it is written over there, Cyclops are a member of a race of savage one eyed giants. Remember they had one eyes, the great Greek poet Homer we have been talking about Homeric proportion, Gigantic proportions in terms of (Refer Time:07:19), Homer was not a giant he was a poet, but when today we say Homeric it means someone who is super accomplished, super skilled in anything so Homeric accomplishment. So, Homer the (Refer Time: 07:34) of elliotn odyssey. In the odyssey the king odysseys escaped death by blinding the Cyclops one of the Cyclops Polim famous. So, what does it mean? Already they had one eye and the king or king odysseys, he escaped death by blinding the Cyclops poly famous. So, this is the idea of Cyclops one eyed giant.

Elysian Fields: next word is Elysian Fields; this is very positive word lands of the blessed, enormous odyssey Elysium is described as paradise near paradise to the Elysian plane; where life is easiest for mend that is the idea. So, this is term in which so we do not think that it is we have already done word like the river styx s t y x and (Refer Time: 08:46) So, that is the bottom the lowest of the low, the pit of suffering; elysian the apogee of happiness and bless.

Next words is gargantuan very commonly or free frequently occurring word very large, it is related to size, sometimes you say a problem of gargantuan proportions. We do not

generally say beauty of gargantuan proportion, but we say a building structures of gargantuan proportion, a gargantuan appetite eat so much.

Next word halcyon; denoting a period of time in the past that was idyllically happy and peaceful, halcyon days; halcyon days of beauty halcyon days of success, halcyon days of fame those were the days. So, halcyon days a superstar cricketer, today he is just a retired sportsman occasionally giving interviews or commenting on the proceedings of the match, but we have to say in his halcyon days; he was a cricket a cricketer who was you know at the peak of his form on the top of his form. Some of the synonyms for halcyon is like calm, peaceful, pleased, blissful. So, all in all something that was very pleasant and positive.

Next word is Olympian, now you are of course, familiar with the word Olympics. Now this is associated with mount Olympus somewhere in Greece, and now it is used for with the Greek Gods whose home was traditionally held to be there. So, a temple of Olympian Zeus; Olympian anything that is suggestive of grander of largeness a few, so that is a very certain deference between Gargantuan and Olympian; see gargantuan is almost monster like, Olympian is almost God like both are related to huge. So, you decide which is positive which is negative.

Next word is Procrustean; Procreates was one of the many villains defeated by the Greek hero Theseus. According to the Greek mythology procreates was a robber, a thief who killed his victims in a very cruel way. So, it means standing to produce conformity by violent or arbitrary means a very negative world.

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Procrustean measures; look at all these Theseus. I just referred to the name Theseus, he was defeated, procreates was defeated by Theseus and he was a robber procrustean, Theseus was a hero. In modern terms when we say procrustean measures we what we are trying to say forcing to conform not confirm; conform to the line, according to whatever the ruling or authorities are telling you to do. Next word is pyrrhic; king of Epirus was Pyrrhus; the name comes from Pyrrhus, the king of Epirus. After defeating the Romans we are talking about those ancient times the B.C even also third century, fourth century B.C, while sustaining very heavy losses Pyrrhus declared that one more such victory and I am gone I am lost forever. Pyrrhus victory is a victory that has been achieved by Greek laws; it has almost cost you more than what it has gained you. So, you want to prove a point.

So, you want to prove your superiority over your relatives, and you say you know you are living in this huge mansion and I am going to and you always look down upon my small house, I am going to prove to you that I can build a house as big as yours and you do that, but at a great cause you have to sacrifice a lot maybe you have to work a lot or 10 times harder than your capacity, you have to let go lot of family happiness, personal happiness and then at the end yes you achieved what you wanted you construct a bigger house, get greater or more luxurious house for yourself, which is more than your cousins more your relatives, but your gained a pyrrhic victory, you have lost out on several

things which were more important and which could have given you more greater joint happiness.

Next word is trogon horse; in Greek mythology this is a hollow wooden statue of a horse, in which the Greeks were supposed to have concealed themselves in a order to enter troy. I recommend you watch this movie called Troy, starring Eric Barna and brad pit there is a trogon horse, a wooden horse and with a Greek army concealed itself, and then they managed to find the way inside the city of troy. So, now, in modern times it means a person or thing intended to secretly overthrow an enemy by deceit, or by deception trogon horse.

I also wanted you to look at this word Oedipal. Now oedipal has come to denote oedipal complex you know someone who has lustful feelings towards his mother, and hateful feelings towards his father. The name is derived from the title of the play Oedipus Sophocles Oedipus. But the thing is that in the story in the play he was Oedi the king was a very good king, but he just king, he killed his father unknowingly that he is Ely related or he is really his father and of course, he married his mother unknowingly as well.

When we say oedipal in today's context we mean that someone who has an inborn hatred towards anything that is very paternalistic and very domineering, a patriarchal force it could be one of them it is not the exact meaning; please note that I am not saying oedipal is always hatred towards anything that is domineering or patterning I am just saying that it can also be if you are given series of choices this could be the best choice; that someone who harbors hatred against father like figure or authoritarian figure.

So, these are the terms and we have been talking about all these names for quite a while, we will do them, we will do a little more of this in our subsequent classes. So, be prepared for that, I hope you are doing your assignments also very regularly and from here I will take you to another exercise, I will show you some definitions and I would like you to give me the word for that.

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Practice

- Someone who tries to get what they want, or earn someone's respect, by using flattery on those people who would be able to influence their goals. The term has a negative connotation, because the person does not attempt to achieve their goals through hard work or sincerity. You curry favour.

So, let us look at the first slide, please look at the slide here. This is your practice you have to give me one word, think of a word for this one look at the definition here.

Someone who tries to get what they want, or earn someone's respect, by using flattery on those people who would be able to influence their goals. The term has a negative connotation, because the person does not attempt to achieve their goals through hard work or sincerity. You curry favor. What is the word here? The answer is sycophant, synonym is toad toady.

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Practice

- an amateur, often one who pretends to be very knowledgeable.

Next practice look at the slide this person is an amateur, who pretends to be very often to be very knowledgeable about something; about maybe art, or cinema, or science, or politics, you know someone who tries to express in stress in everything, but does not have a specialized knowledge of anything. The answer is dilettante; again a very frequently occurring word in competitive exams of Italian origin, originally it meant lover of the arts, but soon it began to take a negative slant. So, it was not something professionally done, but doing something out of interest.

So, the person was merely a lover of art as opposed to someone who actually did it professionally, and knew much more than that. So, it is like you know you are opposer showing off; some of the synonyms here are dabbler, novice, trifler and amateur of course. So, antonym would be specialist a professional, you are not a dabbler, you are not a trifler, you are a specialist or professional.

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Practice

- a loud, bossy woman ,
shrewish

Look at the next slide please; this is a loud bossy woman a shrewish woman, use only for woman, loud bossy shrewish. The word is virago please note not vergo, virago; virago a particularly mean kind of a woman, it is not a compliment to call anyone a virago although its originates were more nobler like a serious minded woman, but then it is to in today's context its crèche, and a someone who is a scold a shrew, originally it was supposed to be a disciplined a brave woman, heroic woman. The roots or the root of the word virago is the Latin word for man v i r, a virago used to in other words mean a

woman who seemed masculine or mandly, synonyms for virago are shrew and termagant.

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Practice

- a beginner, a new recruit, or someone who is just learning something.

Look at the next slide, this is your practice this is a beginner a new recruit or someone who is just learning something. Who is this person and the answer is tyro. The word is tyro that could be many other words also I agree, but I want you to remember some certain words very carefully where with great attentions. Tyro is another word that may appear in some form or the other, it means (Refer Time: 22:22), novess, greenhorn or recruit all of us have been tyros at some point, we are the new kids on the block someone new on a particular case.

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Practice

- an incredibly talented musician

Next word an incredibly talented musician, look at the slide please practice an incredibly talented musician and the answer is virtuoso.

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You know you say the A R Rehman's virtuoso performance, someone who is an expert skilled in music see originally for music, but now it has come to become to refer to any other field also. Generally usually this word is applied to music; it is very common for a talented musician to be called a Virtuoso. So, whatever is your talent may virtuoso

performance an actor a theatre person, if you are very talented it is a huge compliment to be called a virtuoso.

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Practice

- A man who dotes on or really adores his wife

Look at the next slide a man who dotes on or really adores his wife; who is he? The answer is uxorious; look at the spelling it is not luxurious, uxorious. It goes back to the Latin root uxor u x o r, which means wife and it came into English or in the English language in some time in the 16th or 17th century its usually used in a negative connotation, a way to show that a husband has too much concern it ponds over a too much, which is almost like being a submissive husband. It is also a very old fashion word; however, it is still appears in higher order exams.

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Practice

- humorous or witty conversation ,
banter, lighthearted frivolity

Next words please look at the slide; banter, humorous or witty conversation, lighthearted frivolity it is huge for conversation; humorous, witty, bantering, lighthearted, frivolity. The word is badinage b a d i n a g e; badinage comes from the French word badinar b a d i n e r, which means to joke. In literature there is no better place to find examples than in Shakespeare, Shakespeare in comedies; and then nowadays you also find wonderful examples in a sitcoms like the big bang theory, 2 and a half men. So, in sitcom television sitcoms standup comedies all these things are quite common. So, badinage remembers this is half teasing, non malicious banter; it is not intended to hurt, but to amuse. So, it is not satirical poking fun to making fun of someone or hurting someone.

So, these are the words that I would like you to look at, look at the words which I have not done in detail for example, Aphrodite the Goddess of love and beauty. So, Adonis I agreed the person who was beautiful beyond words. Shally has written a word a poem called Adonis, where John Kites is his Adonis; it is a beautiful youth who died in the prime of his life died very young. Zeus Homer Olympian all these words are used in order to suggest magnitude, something of huge proportion not just in terms of size, but also in terms of accomplishments and achievements pyrrhic, pyrrhic victory a waste a wasted effort yes you achieved, but at what great cost.

In our context you can use King Asoka's example, he achieved a victory, but at such a the cause was so destructive, you know it is the destruction was so huge, that he felt he

decided to give up on his victorious ways, and he spread the message of (Refer Time: 27:52) follower. So, these are the. So, always try to contextualize in your own culture language and see things start becoming easy for example, we were doing the other day Achilles heels, the baby infant Achilles he was dipped, but down in the waters in the holy river, and the entire body was almost like invincible; except the heels and you can look at the portion from the Mahabharata. Duryodhans story that ex extract or excerpt, where his entire body is steeled by one look of his mother except a certain part, which becomes vulnerable.

So, look at the way mythology is converged crisscrossed, and the see how interesting how fun it could be to learn more words and act to your vocabulary, we will continue with more vocabulary development in our next class.

Thank you very much.