

**English Language for Competitive Exams**  
**Prof. Aysha Iqbal**  
**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Indian Institute Technology, Madras**

**Week - 09**  
**Lecture - 40**  
**Vocabulary Uncommon Words – 2**

Good morning, as you can see on the board- Uncommon Words Part 2. Basically what I am doing is continuing where I stopped last week, and this is a new lecture for this week. We did uncommon words last time, we are continuing the same list; I mean a same list in the sense that the same topic uncommon words, but different set of words. And for the sake of convenience I have marked it part 2.

These lectures coupled with some of the earlier lecture that we have done, earlier classes that you have already I hope attended on vocabulary development they are going to be immense benefit to you whenever you appear for your competitive exams in English language. As usual I will always advice you to supplement and complement with these lectures with more reading materials. It will be of enormous benefit if you can do that. Continue reading, read good works of literature as well as standard newspapers in English language.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:38)

- **Crapulous**
  - (a) Depending on luck
  - (b) ill from over drinking
  - (c) Bloated
  - (d) Long – wined
- **Crass**
  - (a) Gross
  - (b) Music
  - (c) Brittle
  - (d) Long established
- **Crepitate**
  - (a) Make a rattling sound
  - (b) Crawl
  - (c) Become weak
  - (d) Fear

Now please look at the slide here. First line these are your exercises; it is the same format you are going to solve the exercises on your own, at least attempt to solve the exercises on your own. Once the list is over I am going to give you the answers and the explanations. So, first word crapulous: depending on luck; b, ill from over drinking; c, bloated; d, long-wined.

Crass: a, gross, music, brittle, long established. Next is crepitate: make a rattling sound, crawl, become weak, fear.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:17)

- **Croft**
  - (a) Skill
  - (b) Small farm
  - (c) Large barn
  - (d) Piece of potter
- **Crotchety**
  - (a) Broken down
  - (b) Full of whims
  - (c) Bent
  - (d) Knitted
- **Cruet**
  - (a) Large cake
  - (b) Small bottle
  - (c) Thick oil
  - (d) Fancy

Next slide, croft: it is a skill, a small farm, large barn and piece of potter. Please look at all these words. What is a barn? Crotchety: broken down, full of whims, bent, knitted. You have a word like crotchety it says stitch right, say if this is the same word look up to your dictionaries. Cruet: this is not cruel, large cake, small bottle, thick oil, fancy.

(Refer Slide Time: 03:02).

- **Curmudgeon**
  - (a) Buffoon
  - (b) Churlish fellow
  - (c) Tropi-cal fish
  - (d) High anger
- **Debauch**
  - (a) Cheapen
  - (b) Branch off
  - (c) To open a bottle
  - (d) Corrupt

Curmudgeon: buffoon, churlish fellow, tropi-cal fish or high anger. Debauch: a cheapen, b branch off, c to open a bottle, d corrupt.

(Refer Slide Time: 03:18)

- **Deleterious**
  - (a) Tardy
  - (b) Harmful
  - (c) Eliminating
  - (d) Considerate
- **Demesne**
  - (a) Resignation
  - (b) Region
  - (c) Lowly conduct
  - (d) Good behavior
- **Depilate**
  - (a) Unscramble
  - (b) Displease
  - (c) Remove hair
  - (d) Pillage

Next deleterious or deleterious: a tardy, b harmful, c eliminating, d considerate. Next the demesne, s is silent of course the demesne: it is resignation, region, lowly conduct, good behavior. Demesne I repeat: resignation, region, lowly conduct, good behavior. Depilate: unscramble, displease, remove hair, pillage.

(Refer Slide Time: 03:51)

- **Depredation**
  - (a) Decrease in value
  - (b) Warding off
  - (c) Disapproval
  - (d) Plundering
- **Deracinate**
  - (a) Pull up by the roots
  - (b) Shunt off
  - (c) Slow down
  - (d) Tear to shreds
- **Desuetude**
  - (a) Bluntness
  - (b) Rich style of cooking
  - (c) Disuse
  - (d) Sweetness

Depredation: decrease in value, warding off, disapproval, plundering. Deracinate: pull up by the roots, shunt off, slow down, and tear to shreds. Desuetude: bluntness, rich style of cooking, disuse, sweetness.

(Refer Slide Time: 04:15)

- **Detrition**
  - (a) Wearing away
  - (b) Sudden departure
  - (c) Prevention
  - (d) Anguish
- **Dialectics**
  - (a) Kind of language
  - (b) Socialism
  - (c) Elocution
  - (d) Logical argumentation
- **Disquisition**
  - (a) Formal request
  - (b) Itemized list
  - (c) Thesis
  - (d) Uneasiness

Next is detritions: wearing away, sudden departure, prevention, anguish. Dialectics: kind of language, socialism, elocution, logical argumentation. Next word is disquisition: formal request, itemized list, thesis, uneasiness.

(Refer Slide Time: 04:36)

- **Doggerel**
  - (a) Small pet
  - (b) Pomposity
  - (c) Short slogan
  - (d) Trivial verse
- **Dolorous**
  - (a) Parsimonious
  - (b) Financial
  - (c) Sorrowful
  - (d) Sacred
- **Doxology**
  - (a) Study of propaganda
  - (b) Heresy
  - (c) Hymn of praise
  - (d) Obstinate belief.

Next list doggerel: choices are small pet, b pomposity, short slogan, trivial verse. Next dolorous: parsimonious, financial, sorrowful, sacred. Doxology: study of propaganda, heresy, hymn of praise, obstinate belief.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:04)

- **Effulgent**
  - (a) Sacred
  - (b) Radiant
  - (c) Thunderous
  - (d) Sickening
- **Elegiac**
  - (a) Mournful
  - (b) Select
  - (c) Desirable
  - (d) Laudatory
- **Emblazon**
  - (a) Set on fire
  - (b) Adorn magnificently
  - (c) Set as an example
  - (d) Persist

Next slide effulgent: sacred, radiant, thunderous, sickening. Elegiac: mournful, select, desirable, laudatory. Next word emblazon: set on fire, adorn magnificently, set as an example, persist.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:29)

- **Embryonic**
  - (a) Developed
  - (b) Ingrown
  - (c) Hereditary
  - (d) Rudimentary
- **Emendation**
  - (a) Praise
  - (b) Correction
  - (c) Elimination
  - (d) Legislative proposal
- **Emollient**
  - (a) Milky
  - (b) Soothing
  - (c) Oily
  - (d) Adhering

Next slide embryonic: is developed, ingrown, hereditary, rudimentary. Emendation: please note there is no spelling error here it is not amendment it is emendation, praise, correct, elimination, legislative proposal. And next word is emollient: milky, soothing, oily, adhering.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:54)

- **Febrile**
  - (a) Nervous
  - (b) Moody
  - (c) Feverish
  - (d) Slight
- **Fecundity**
  - (a) Depth
  - (b) Fertility
  - (c) Poverty
  - (d) Validity

Next word febrile: choices are a nervous, b moody, c feverish, d slight. Next fecundity: a depth, b fertility, c poverty, d validity.

(Refer Slide Time: 06:11)

- **Fenestrated**
  - (a) Having windows
  - (b) Enclosed
  - (c) Deployed
  - (d) Involved
- **Feracious**
  - (a) Fierce
  - (b) Predatory
  - (c) Fruitful
  - (d) Bearing away
- **Fetid**
  - (a) Celebrated
  - (b) Heavy
  - (c) Malodorous
  - (d) Insipid

Next word fenestrated: a having windows, b enclosed, c deployed, d involved. Next word feracious: a fierce; this is not ferocious, b predatory, c fruitful, d bearing away. The next word is again a very popular word with exams. Fetid: celebrated, heavy, malodorous, insipid.

(Refer Slide Time: 06:42)

- **Fillip**
  - (a) Large amount
  - (b) Acrobatic trick
  - (c) a drink
  - (d) Stimulus
- **Flocculent**
  - (a) Fluffy
  - (b) Pretentious
  - (c) Insipid
  - (d) Congregating

Next word fillip: large amount, acrobatic trick, a drink; a kind of a drink, stimulus. And next if flocculent: there is one word like succulent also this is flocculent; fluffy,

pretentious, insipid, congregating. If you know succulent you will be able to do flocculent.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:07)

- **Fluted**
  - (a) Arched
  - (b) Intoned
  - (c) Fretted
  - (d) Grooved
- **Frieze**
  - (a) Niche
  - (b) Ornamental strip
  - (c) Top section
  - (d) Pedestal

And next word fluted: nothing to do with the instrument: a arched, b intoned, fretted, d grooved. And frieze: pronounced as freeze; niche, ornamental strip, top section, pedestal. These words are taken from a particular domain of study or knowledge.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:35)

- **Fruition**
  - (a) Fulfillment
  - (b) Seed dispersal
  - (c) Parsimoniousness
  - (d) Temporary use
- **Fugacious**
  - (a) Fanciful
  - (b) Transitory
  - (c) Breaking loose
  - (d) Irresponsible

Next fruition: fulfillment, seed dispersal, parsimoniousness, temporary use. Fugacious: fanciful, transitory, breaking loose, irresponsible.



(Refer Slide Time: 07:47)

- **Lanyard**
  - (a) Sail
  - (b) Short rope
  - (c) Lower deck
  - (d) Open court
- **Lectern**
  - (a) Literary conference
  - (b) Reference work
  - (c) Storm lantern
  - (d) Reading desk

Next word lanyard: is it a sail, b short rope, c lower deck, d open court; very tricky word. And another tricky word comes your way, lectern: literary conference, reference work, a storm lantern, reading desk.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:11)

- **Licentious**
  - (a) Dramatic
  - (b) Sanctioned
  - (c) Wanton
  - (d) Self-seeking
- **Litany**
  - (a) Deep moan
  - (b) Legal battle
  - (c) Popular choice
  - (d) Repeated series of responses

Licentious, very popular word; not all that uncommon but still you need to know it: dramatic, b sanctioned, c wanton, d self seeking. And next is litany: deep moan, legal battle, popular choice, repeated series of responses.

So, we will discuss the answers now. First word was *crapulous*: depending on luck, b ill from over drinking, bloated and long-wined. The best is choice is ill from over drinking. It is an old fashioned word which means over excessive eating and drinking and falling ill due to it. Excessive eating and drinking may cause bloatedness, fat, well overweightness, but that is not the meaning here. *Crapulous* or you have a word called *corpulent*; *corpulent* is heavy heavyweight; the person who is an overweight person not heavyweight, but overweight. *Crapulous* is ill from overdrinking given to gross intemperance in eating or drinking; intemperance means no control, temperance means having control.

Next word was *crass*. So we were given choices like gross, sheered, brittle, long established. Now the best choice is gross: g r o s s e s, g r o s s which means uncouth, uncivilized; we often say crass behavior, crass song and dance in dance situation, crass comedy. So, that is which is gross which is an upfront to good taste. Remember the word *crass*: it is an adjective. And the origin is Latin *crasses* which meant thick and dense. Dense is a stupidity low to understand right. And thick and dense in English the all these words hold a point towards stupidity. Today crassness and grossness are considered upfront to good taste.

Next word was *crepitate*: it means making a rattling sound children's toys make a crepitating sound. (Refer Time: 10:55) make a crepitative sound. Next word was *croft*: *croft* choices are skill, a small farm, large barn, piece of potter. Barn is where farmers keep their material their stuff (Refer Time: 11:11) etcetera animals. *Croft* is a small farm again old English, not much in use but then examiners may decide to give you this word.

*Crotchety* is full of waves: we often say you know grandfather is becoming crotchety, old age sort of very (Refer Time: 11:39) and irritable. Remember *crotchety* is used when we talk about older people, we do not talk about my best friend is getting crotchety; yes you can use but most often if there is a choice if there is sort of text completion kind of exercise remember to use it where best applicable which is talk about older people. Like crotchety people take pleasure in bothering others or constantly complaining about others. *Crotchety* derives from the word *crotched* (Refer Time: 12:19) and crotchety people are subjected to waves.

Next word was cruet. Now cruet is a small bottle; it can be filled with water or wine or anything and kept on your somewhere in the dining room so that is cruet. As part of a you know crockery that is a small bottle. Curmudgeon is a churlish fellow, an irritable fellow it is that kind of a temperament again like crotchety temperament. It is not a buffoon, but irritable short tempered person.

Debauch is a very very common word: it is not cheapened, it is corrupt. A debauch person is a corrupt person, you can say a most often it is used in the sense of a moral corruption. Debauchery: people who are excessively fond of things which are generally not considerate of moral standards; be matching moral standards that is debauch. Deleterious is harmful deleterious effects of something, deleterious effects of living in a neighborhood where there is too much of construction activity going on. So, you smoke on the dust you smoke. And demene: demene is a region a small region.

The next word was depilate: well, depilatory is removal of hair. You subject there is a kind of therapy where excessive body hair can be removed then we can call it depilatory function. And then perhaps some animals have to go through for some kinds of profit people do that, so depilate removal of hair.

Depredation it looks very close to decrease in value why? It is not depreciation, it is plundering. The horrors of war include depredation; when countries attack each other the conquering armies take to depredation. Plundering and ransacking of the defeated and pillaging their homes. So, these things until all kinds of pains humans inflict on each other. The Latin origin is praeda: p r a e d a, I think of predates predator. By 15 Century French language the word became depredation. Basically its predatory prey not p r a y, but p r e y.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:51)



Differentiate: p r a y, p r e y we have to prey on somebody, to prey on the defeated people. So, this was done when a conquering army did horrible things to the defeated people.

Deracinate is pulled by the roots, we deracinate something, so take off by the roots or something. We have the another word which was desuetude, which meant blunt I mean the choices were bluntness, rich style of cooking, disuse and sweetness. This is a noun which means that something is not used anywhere, it is no actively used. Machines are in a state of desuetude. You must have seen all these, sick factories they have machinery and equipment. Please notice we do not say equipments, we do not say machineries; we say machinery and we say equipment, equipment in plural also; so all these things which are not in use.

Next word was detritions: Detrition is wearing away; synonyms are friction and scraping off. Sometimes you have the act of detritions wearing away, you can leave any material thing around. And detritions gets often said that stones are subject, these rocks are subjected to detritions. We have another word dialectics: it is a very lit philosophical literary and even in economics perhaps so logical argumentation this or that.

We will go onto disquisition: that was our next word which means dissertation or a thesis. Long elaborate word to describe analysis of a top, it is a thesis. And then we had doggerel: some literally geniuses like Edward Lear or Lewis Carol; Lewis Carol the

author of Alice in Wonderland, I would recommend that you guys read Alice in Wonderland. So, doggerel and also on the (Refer Time: 18:36) and W H (Refer Time: 18:38) they have written doggerel nonsense or trivial verse. So, you have four choices here, it has what nothing to do with a dogs so it is not a small pet, it is a trivial verse which is your choice d.

Next was word was dolorous, which means sorrowful. You have a medicine Dolo which takes away your pain associated with that. Doxology is hymn of praise in a church. Doxa: look up the word Doxa d o x a and doxology hymn of praising a church; a service church service. Effulgent is radiance something that radiates light it is a good word, it is a positive word, it is an adjective. And elegiac is based on elegy; it derives from elegy, elegiac is a is an adjective elegy a noun, mournful, somebody died; a great person died that (Refer Time: 19:50) was elegiac that worst way. You write elegy for someone close to you, appoint his or her death; so versus elegies.

I think we have done this word before, but it would not hurt to repeat it. Emblazon is b choice, b adorn magnificently inscribe (Refer Time: 20:16) you must have ofte;n seen if a movie titles they come emblazoned on the billboard so that is emblazon. Adorn inscribed you know very (Refer Time: 20:27). And you have embryonic: embryonic is think embryo; embryonic is an adjective, embryonic is a noun initial stage. So, best answer is d, choice d rudimentary early stages not yet developed.

Emendation is correction. Amendment with an 'a' is a change. Commendation is to praise, emendation is to correct. An emollient is something b, something soothing so choice b. Choice b that is soothing soft and sometimes you say the emollient effect of a lotion or a hand cream; soothing effect emollient.

The next word was febrile: febrile choices were nervous, moody, feverish and slight. We often say febrile imagination, feverish imagination mind always that work, very active, agitative, always in the state of excitements. Best choice is c feverish. Next word was fecundity, such a nice word it has good meaning fertility. Fecundity of imagination productive so very positive word, you can use it when you go through about stuff creativity being very (Refer Time: 22:12) about. It its fruitful, it is fertile the ability to produce synonyms are abundant, something that grows healthily.

Next word was fenestrated: fenestrated is having windows that room has been fenestrated. It is not enclose or deploy, but or involve, but choice a having windows. Next word was feracious which is again a good word; fruitful, productive, abundant (Refer Time: 22:47). It is not fierce it is not predatory. Feracious is different from ferocious.

Next word was fetid. We often say fetid smell, so odor, related to odor it is not futed. Now see fetid has something to do with odor and fet is to someone got celebrated and praised; fetid is malodorous, bad smelling. Comes from the Latin word naming stinking, this is an adjective it has been in the in active use since the early 15th Century. And this is the time when good detergent or you know perfumes were not really so much evoked; so it something that stinks.

Next word was fillip: fillip is a kind of stimulus something that boosts, promotes or energizes. We often say the article gave a fillip to me or the person gave a fillip to me, the timely assistance was the fillip to me; so something that boost promotes, or energizes. Next word was flocculent and it means fluffy. Succulent is juicy and soft, flocculent is fluffy. And next word was fluted: fluted the best choice is d grooved; it is derived from architects, the word of architecture. So, fluting in architecture is the shallow, grooves running vertically along a surface. So, it is an architectural word.

And we have next word is frieze: frieze is again derived from the domain of architecture; it is an ornamental strip on a building on a structure. We have another words like fruition which is fulfillment; fruition of all my hard work, fulfillment, fruition of desire you have got everything you wanted. Fugacious is you were given four choices fanciful, transitory, breaking loose, irresponsible. It sounds very much like irresponsible, but that it means the exact meaning is b transitory; something that passes quickly that is (Refer Time: 25:40) that is the synonym (Refer Time: 25:41) fleeting. Origin is trace back to the Latin word fugax; f u g a x which means act to flee or something that would not last long.

The next word lanyard: lanyard choices were a sail, b short rope, c lower deck or d open court. It is a lanyard is a short rope string like thing which people wear around their necks, sometimes they hang a small knives or small sort of tooting around their (Refer Time: 26:18). So, they say short small short rope lanyard.

And then you have another word lectern, it is not literary conference it sounds like (Refer Time: 26:30) it is a reading desk. A lectern is a stand you lecture from; lectern often features a slope top and a little lamp to make reading from a paper or notes easier. The word lectern comes from the Latin word leger which means to read l e g e r. Empodium means the same thing; the lectern we can keep a small desk, but if we can show it to our students this is almost a lectern, this has small a desk with a slope top where you can keep a paper and read it.

We have next word licentious; choices were dramatic, sanctioned, wanton and self seeking. And the best choice is wanton, licentious behavior, licentious action, wanton (Refer Time: 27:33) immoral. We have done debauch; debauch and licentious are quite similar one, though not exactly the same, but quite similar. Lack of morals, do not meet the accepted standards of morals. Litany is repeated series of responses it is not a moan or legal battle or popular choice, but choice is d repeated series of response. It is a whole list of complaints sometimes to get off your chest or a request whole list of requests. It comes from entity or supplication. A Greek word often refers to a long petitions offered to the King, to God, to those in authority, so that is a litany; repeated requests, lists, complaints all those things.

So, from there I will take you to an another list of uncommon words, words that come from other languages this is cul de sac. You often reach cul de sac, it is a blind alley, dead end, at the end of a road you may come across cul de sac, you cannot take left or right it is the end of the road. Cul de sac can often happen in life. Career has reached, cul de sac dead end what where to go next.

Next word is en masse; I am doing French and Latin words with you en masse is in the body altogether. Students went to the principal en masse to complain about some issue. And this is forte; physics is your forte a strong point. So, this is not f o r t fort as in castle but it is one of your strong points.

(Refer Slide Time: 29:37)



We say amour; they say next word amour propre. Amour propre is nothing but self esteem, guy at big fence of self esteem, self loved. So, you are impressed with yourself amour proper. And next word is bagatelle, which is please note the spelling bagatelle, it is a (Refer Time: 30:06) it is a very slight kind of an issue.

(Refer Slide Time: 30:12)



You have another word bistro; bistro is a small café, French bistro a small bar or café. You have another word maladroit; adroitly means skillfully, maladroit is clumsy. Mal, whenever you see mal think you can always be sure that it means something bad. And



there is a word like malaise- m a l a I s e which is a feeling of disease discomfort malaise. So, societies of suffers from various malaise, social malaise, dowry is a social malaise. Hence, it is a bad thing; it is a social ill.

Next word is ménage: menage is a household. And then menage household, there is a term called menagerie it is a collection of small animals. Then you have volte face or a volt face; it is an about turn an about face. You promise your friend that you are going to support him in the state of crisis and then next day you say- no it cannot be done, because you are not convinced about your friend's genuineness. And what you have done is, volte face an about turn, a change of face.

So, thank you very much, we will continue with more vocabulary in the subsequent classes.