

Vocabulary Building-2

Dear Students

Our first learning point regarding vocabulary learning was:

Go for contextualised learning of vocabulary. For a word, the sentence forms the context . Secondly put newly acquired words to use in your day-to-day life.

Moving on with our discussion, the next tip is:

To make a word a part of your psyche, study its complete profile. Along with its meaning, pronunciation and usage, study its affixes, synonyms, antonyms, homophones and homonyms.

All these elements of vocabulary building have been explained below.

Synonyms

Synonyms are words that have the same or almost same meaning but with different shades in different contexts. To use words appropriately in speech and writing, you should be able to distinguish one word from another with its slight changes in meaning.

Example:

Figure out difference of meaning between each of the following pair of synonyms:

- Abandon Discard
- Abridge Shorten
- Admire Praise
- Exceptional unusual
- Eliminate Remove

Antonyms:

An antonym is a word opposite in meaning with another. To express contrast between two objects, persons or situations, antonyms are the best options. They can also be formed by using prefixes.

For Example:

- Partial Impartial
- Competent Incompetent

Figure out difference of meaning between each of the following pair of antonyms:

- Abundant Inadequate
- Conceal Reveal
- Despair Hope
- Industrious Lazy
- Intentional Accidental

Homophones: The word 'homophone' has its origin in the combination of two elements- 'homo'(same) and 'phone' (sound). Thus, the term '*homophone*' describes the words that sound the same but have different meanings. For example, the word 'ate' and 'eight' are pronounced in the same way both have different meanings. The knowledge of homophones helps the learners check the ambiguity in expression as well as in bringing clarity to it. Some common mistakes occur with *Your/you're, their/there/they're etc.*

Some homophones are as follow:

- Complement/Compliment
- Discreet/Discrete
- Counsel/council
- Heard/Herd
- Mail/Male
- Team/Teem

Homonyms: A homonym is a word which is spelt like another word but has a different meaning, depending upon the context in which it is used.

Let's illustrate it with a few sentences:

- Broke: The child jumped upon the table and broke the plate.
Broke: During the recession thousand of small businesses broke.
- Descent: The climbers began their final descent.
Descent: He is from royal descent.
- Fair: She is tall and fair.
Fair: This is not fair on your part.
- Firm: We are working in a US-based firm.
Firm: He is man of firm decision.

Affixes: It is one of the most important process through which new words are formed by adding prefixes and suffixes.

Prefixes:

Example: Social → Unsocial → Antisocial → asocial

Suffixes:

Example: Social → Sociable → Socialisation → Socially → Socialising → Socialism

Note: Next vocabulary quiz will be based on your understanding of these categories.

Happy Learning!

