

INTRODUCTION

Testing English vocabulary forms an important part of various competitive exams (IBPS, GMAT, CAT, SSC etc). To learn English words and their usage, constant revision and practice is the ultimate guide.

In this session, we will employ two different techniques to enhance the vocabulary power of learners.

1. **Root-Word method** –A root is a word or word part that can form the basis of new words through the addition of prefixes and suffixes. Understanding the meanings of common roots can help you work out the meanings of new words as you encounter them. (most reliable method).
2. **Mnemonics**- Learning new vocabulary words can be easier when students connect the new information with something familiar to them, i.e, linking new word with the other to learn its meaning in an interesting way.
For example; Adroit- link this word with “android” (students are expert in handling android phones), Adroit means “expert”.

MASTERING ENGLISH VOCABULARY USING ROOT-WORDS: PART- 01

FID

The root word ‘fid’ means trust, faith. Fid word has its origin from ‘fido’ which means dog-a symbol of faithfulness.

The following words are based on the root word fid.

1. **FIDELITY** (noun) - faithfulness, loyalty. (this word is used in a positive context).
2. **INFIDELITY** (noun) - faithlessness, disloyalty. (used in a negative context)
3. **PERFIDY** (noun) - faithlessness, deceitfulness. (used in negative context).
4. **CONFIDENT** (adj.) - bold, fearless, convinced.
5. **DIFFIDENT** (adj.) - shy, hesitant.(it’s an antonym of confident).
6. **BONAFIDE** (adj.) - genuine, authentic.
7. **MALAFIDE** (adj.) - illegal, false. ‘Mal’ means bad, used in a negative sense.
8. **CONFIDANT** (noun) - intimate, trustworthy friend.
9. **CONFIDE** (verb) - to share secrets with someone you trust.
10. **AFFIDAVIT** (noun) - a document of verification or trust.

SYNONYMS & ANTONYMS

1. FIDELITY (NOUN)

SYNONYMS - faithfulness, loyalty, allegiance, fealty, obeisance, constancy, dutifulness, homage.

ANTONYMS - disloyalty, perfidy, treachery, treason, sedition, betrayal.

Sometimes, the options in the question are so close that we need to know the minutest difference between the

words (synonyms).

For example,

FIDELITY (SYN.)

- A) Affection
- B) Allegiance
- C) Accuracy
- D) Loyalty

Ruling out the affection and accuracy, we are left with allegiance and loyalty which are both synonyms of fidelity. Let us look at the minutest difference between the two. Allegiance is loyalty towards a country/ ruler while fidelity and loyalty is faithfulness towards a person or a relation. Hence the correct answer for the above question is 'loyalty'.

2. DIFFIDENT (ADJECTIVE)

SYNONYMS - hesitant, shy, coy, sheep, cowardly, timid, timorous, pusillanimous, meek, bashful, apprehensive.

ANTONYMS - bold, fearless, dauntless, valiant, gallant, chivalric, audacious, blatant, courageous (all these words are used in a positive sense).

- Intrepid, brazen, doughty, effrontery, impudent (these words are used in negative sense).

Example;

1. How did you have the _____(effrontery, boldness) to take another loan when you had not paid the previous one. (Answer –Effrontery).
2. His _____(impudent, audacious) behavior led him to trouble.(Answer – impudent).