A very warm welcome to you viewers.

 In this session, I shall acquaint you with the use of antonyms and synonyms.

In this module you will understand the importance of antonyms and synonyms. I will help you understand the concept of antonyms, the concept of synonyms, and there are some exercises for proficiency.

At the end of this module, learners will be able to increase their comprehension of the

English language,  improve their proficiency in the use of the English language, enhance their ability to express themselves with clarity, and equip themselves with skills required to answer the English section in competitive exams.

Speaking English is a challenge.

Why do I say this?

Simply because there are numerous subtleties in the English language.

Let me explain to you some subtleties which have relevance to antonyms and synonyms.

Now take the word ‘close’

c-l-o-s-e. It is a homonym.

It can be used in different meanings.

Now the word ‘close’ can be used for, “Close the door”.

Here the word ‘close’ means shut. It Is a verb.

When I say, “He sat close to me”; here ‘close’ means near.

It is an adverb.

So we see there is a similar spelling and similar pronunciation, but the meaning is entirely different.

Now take the word ‘tear’.  Tear is a heteronym. It is also called tear.

She shed a lot of tears. This is a liquid which comes out from the eye.

and now the same word t-e-a-r-s is pronounced ‘Tears’. There were numerous

tears on the bed cover due to overuse. Here tear means a damage, a hole, or something which is ripped apart.

Another heteronym ‘lift and elevator’.

They are completely different words but they both describe

a similar  machine which we use to ascend or descend.

Another complexity lies in the use of the morpheme ‘in’. Now ‘in’ when it is used as a prefix in the words:  incapable, inability, intolerance,  it has a negative stance. It represents ‘not’.

But not all words beginning with the morpheme ‘in’ are  negative.

‘In’ is used in a positive words, in words like intelligent, internal, intact, inventive, etc.

Coming back to antonyms and synonyms let me explain to you these concepts.

The word antonym is taken from the French word *antonym*, which is taken again from the

greek word *anti* which means ‘against’ and the greek word *Onuma* which means

‘word’.

Now the word *anti* gives us a clue. It is  ‘against’. Something which is used for the opposite.

Antonyms are basically opposites.

For ‘external’ the antonym will be internal.

For ‘increase’, it will be ‘decrease’, for

‘create’ it will be ‘destroy’,

For ‘inhale’ it will be ‘exhale’.

Let me show you the use of an antonym in an example in a sentence. “The result of a recent examination caused her much happiness”.

Now happiness can be replaced by any of the words shown below: sadness, anguish and depression, because they are all antonyms of the word ‘happiness’ .

Of course the meaning completely changes when we use antonyms.

Coming to synonyms, the word synonym is taken from the Latin word *synōnymum*

which in turn is taken from the ancient Greek word *synōnymon*. Now *syn* is a

prefix in Greek which means something similar or alike and again we have *onuma*

which means word. Synonyms are basically words having

similar meanings. For ‘external’ it will be ‘exterior’, for

‘increase’ it will be ‘multiply’,

for ‘create’ the synonym is ‘make’

for ‘inhale’ the synonym is ‘breathe in’.

The use of a synonym in a sentence:

Looking at the dark avenue in front of her,

her body became stiff with fear. Now fear can be replaced by any of the

three synonyms given below: terror, fright or alarm.

This is the way synonyms work.

The word ‘emancipation’ means freedom. It means liberty,

Independence, or deliverance.

And this is how antonyms work.

The opposite for emancipation will be captivity, slavery, shackling or dependence.

Now you have to familiarize yourself with these sort of exercises.

Here you have an exercise where you need to choose the right antonym.

“We have a natural desire to help others” . So unwillingness is the antonym for desire.

The answer is unwillingness.

The second example:

“The lesson has redundant details”.

So the antonym will be ‘necessary’ The lesson has

necessary details. Now for choosing the

right synonym: “Mary has an eternal longing to adopt

a pet dog”. So the synonym is constant.

Mary has a constant longing to adopt a pet dog.

She is known for her charity. Generosity is the answer. She is known

for her generosity.

Now in India, English is more than a second language.

English and proficiency in English Epitomizes business opportunities and success.

Now when you represent an institution or a multinational company

misused and misspelled words cause irreparable damage.

Communicating professionally and Intelligently adds to our credibility.

Thank you