**ocabulary – Detailed Exam Notes**

**1. Introduction**

**Vocabulary** is the collection of words in a language that a person understands and uses. A strong vocabulary helps in **reading, writing, speaking, and understanding** English clearly and effectively.

**1.1 A Brief History of Words**

* English words have evolved over centuries and come from various languages: **Old English, Latin, Greek, French, and other languages**.
* Example:
  + *Telephone* → Greek words *tele* (far) + *phone* (sound)
  + *Restaurant* → French origin

**1.2 Using the Dictionary and Thesaurus**

* **Dictionary:** Provides the meaning, pronunciation, part of speech, and example sentences.
  + Example: *Abundant* – plentiful or more than enough.
* **Thesaurus:** Provides **synonyms (similar meanings)** and **antonyms (opposite meanings)**.
  + Example:
    - Synonyms of *happy* → joyful, delighted, pleased
    - Antonyms of *happy* → sad, unhappy, miserable

**1.3 Changing Words from One Form to Another**

* Words can be converted into **nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs** depending on usage.
* Examples:
  + Noun → Verb: *Beauty* → *Beautify*
  + Adjective → Adverb: *Quick* → *Quickly*
  + Verb → Noun: *Decide* → *Decision*

**2. Word Formation**

**2.1 Prefixes and Suffixes**

* **Prefix:** Added at the beginning of a word to change its meaning.
  + Example: *Un-* + *happy* = *Unhappy* (not happy)
* **Suffix:** Added at the end of a word to change its form or meaning.
  + Example: *Kind* + *ness* = *Kindness* (quality of being kind)

**2.2 Synonyms and Antonyms**

* **Synonyms:** Words with similar meanings.
  + Example: *Big* → Large, Huge, Massive
* **Antonyms:** Words with opposite meanings.
  + Example: *Hot* → Cold, Cool

**2.3 Idioms**

* Idioms are phrases with a **figurative meaning**, not the literal meaning of the words.
* Examples:
  + *Break the ice* → To start a conversation in a friendly way
  + *Bite the bullet* → To face a difficult situation bravely
  + *Burn the midnight oil* → To work late at night

**2.4 Confusables**

* Words that **sound similar or look similar but have different meanings**.
* Examples:
  + *Accept* (to receive) vs *Except* (excluding)
  + *Affect* (verb – influence) vs *Effect* (noun – result)
  + *Principle* (fundamental truth) vs *Principal* (head of a school)

**2.5 One-Word Substitutes**

* Using **one word instead of a long phrase**.
* Examples:
  + *One who studies stars* → *Astronomer*
  + *Fear of water* → *Hydrophobia*
  + *A place where books are kept* → *Library*
  + *A person who cannot read or write* → *Illiterate*

**2.6 Homonyms and Homophones**

* **Homonyms:** Words that **have the same spelling or sound but different meanings**.
  + Example: *Bat* → (1) Flying animal, (2) Cricket equipment
* **Homophones:** Words that **sound the same but have different spellings and meanings**.
  + Example: *Write* → to compose letters; *Right* → correct or opposite of left

**2.7 Eponyms**

* Words derived from **names of people**.
* Examples:
  + *Sandwich* → Named after Lord Sandwich
  + *Diesel* → Named after Rudolf Diesel (inventor of diesel engine)
  + *Fahrenheit* → Named after Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit (temperature scale)

**2.8 Phrasal Verbs**

* A combination of a **verb + preposition/adverb** that creates a new meaning.
* Examples:
  + *Look after* → Take care of
  + *Give up* → Stop trying
  + *Put off* → Postpone
  + *Run into* → Meet unexpectedly

**2.9 Common Errors in English**

* Common mistakes in grammar, spelling, or word usage.
* Examples:
  + *He don’t* → *He doesn’t*
  + *I am agree* → *I agree*
  + *Advices* → *Advice* (uncountable noun)
  + *Less* → for uncountable nouns (*less water*), *Fewer* → for countable nouns (*fewer books*)

| **Topic** | **Explanation** | **Examples** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Prefixes & Suffixes** | Prefix = added at the beginning of a word. Suffix = added at the end of a word. | Prefix: *Unhappy* (*Un* + happy) Suffix: *Kindness* (*Kind* + *ness*) |
| **Synonyms** | Words with similar meanings | *Big* → Large, Huge, Massive *Happy* → Joyful, Pleased, Delighted |
| **Antonyms** | Words with opposite meanings | *Hot* → Cold *Success* → Failure |
| **Idioms** | Phrases with figurative meaning | *Break the ice* → Start a conversation *Burn the midnight oil* → Work late at night |
| **Confusables** | Words that look/sound similar but have different meanings | *Accept* → Receive *Except* → Excluding *Affect* → Influence *Effect* → Result *Principle* → Rule *Principal* → Head of school |
| **One-Word Substitutes** | Single words replacing long phrases | *Fear of water* → Hydrophobia *Person who studies stars* → Astronomer *Place where books are kept* → Library *Person who cannot read/write* → Illiterate |
| **Homonyms** | Same spelling/sound, different meanings | *Bat* → Flying animal / Cricket equipment *Bank* → River bank / Money bank |
| **Homophones** | Sound same, different spelling/meaning | *Write* → To compose *Right* → Correct or opposite of left *Sea* → Ocean *See* → Observe |
| **Eponyms** | Words derived from a person’s name | *Sandwich* → Lord Sandwich *Diesel* → Rudolf Diesel *Fahrenheit* → Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit |
| **Phrasal Verbs** | Verb + Preposition/Adverb → New meaning | *Look after* → Take care of *Give up* → Stop trying *Put off* → Postpone *Run into* → Meet unexpectedly |
| **Common Errors** | Frequent mistakes in grammar, spelling, usage | *He don’t* → He doesn’t *I am agree* → I agree *Advices* → Advice *Less water*, *Fewer books* |