

Practical exercises in
One word substitution

1 WORD MAGIC



**THE BEST BOOK TO ENHANCE
YOUR ENGLISH VOCABULARY**

PUSHKAR DINESH CHANDRA

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PRACTICAL EXERCISES IN
ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

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PREFACE

That a learner of the English language (or, for that matter, any language) needs to have a good vocabulary at his command goes without saying. The problem arises when he finds himself unable to think of, or recall, the most appropriate word that will convey the sense he wants to. Appropriate words are highly elusive, especially when they belong to a foreign language. What is required is ceaseless and constant practice, patience and perseverance, inquisitiveness and eagerness to augment one's verbal resources. Learning words, phrases and typical expressions is a never-ending process and one should never be satisfied with, and complacent about, what one has learnt, nor should one tire of one's highly rewarding quest and search. English is a very rich language (and this now sounds like a cliché) and to learn it is an extremely pleasurable exercise. The natural corollary of this statement is that efforts to learn it should be commensurate with its importance.

How to build up what is now frequently called your 'word power' is a moot question. The compiler of this book does not subscribe to the view that you can increase your vocabulary just by learning words by rote. You are obviously not going to pick up a dictionary and start learning words given in it. Reading, writing and speaking a language purposefully and on a regular basis will go a long way towards generating confidence in you. You should, of course, be careful to mark and learn the new words that you come across while reading a passage, an article, a story, etc. A very interesting method of enhancing your vocabulary is to try to find out the synonyms and antonyms of useful words. There are a host of prefixes and suffixes that alter or modify the meanings of words and you should learn them. A word can have many derivatives and you should not forget to make them a part of your vocabulary. Grammar and composition books contain many useful exercises relating to word formation and solving them can be very helpful. Many foreign words and phrases are now commonly used in English and you will find them in every good dictionary. Try to learn them as you come across them.

One-word substitution is a unique method of learning new words. You have a definition or description before you and you have to think of a word, or maybe a small phrase, that best answers, matches or suits it. This way the word and the definition will become associated with each other and will be easily lodged in your mind.

The present book is a unique collection of definitions and their answers in that no such book has, to the best of the compiler's knowledge, been attempted so far. Though it cannot claim to be exhaustive (many words might have been left out), it is a fairly good collection. It incorporates words from all branches of human knowledge and all fields of human experience. All the words and their important derivatives (excepting certain self-explanatory words) have been used in expressive sentences so as to make their meanings clear.

One important point needs to be mentioned here. There are other aspects of a language without which the learning process will remain incomplete. Phrasal verbs and idioms make the English language lively, vibrant and dynamic. In fact, you cannot do without them. Then there are collocations which are, more often than not, ignored by most learners. It is important to know which part of speech a word belongs to or in which way it has been used. The emphasis should be on how a particular word or phrase should be or can be used in a sentence.

We have not touched upon the problem of pronunciation here, which is of paramount importance when it comes to speaking English correctly and effectively.

It is sincerely hoped that the book will prove to be useful to those who intend to build up their vocabulary. Errors and omissions, if pointed out, will be removed in later editions. Suggestions for improvement will be gratefully acknowledged and, depending on their feasibility, implemented.

HOW TO USE THE BOOK

As has been mentioned in the Preface, one-word substitution is a unique method of learning new words. You have a definition or description before you and you have to think of a word, or maybe, a small phrase, that best answers, matches or suits it. It is quite likely that some definition or description will bring to mind more than one word or phrase. Read the definition again and more carefully than before and you will certainly home in on the accurate answer. Even if you feel that some other answer is equally appropriate, you can incorporate it into your vocabulary. It is, however, advisable to look it up in a good dictionary and be sure that the answers you have thought of have no difference in the shade of meaning.

The definition or description will suggest that the answer should be a noun, an adjective, a verb or some other part of speech. After determining the correct part of speech or form of the word, you can think of its derivatives, if any. Sometimes the answer of a definition that follows the preceding one will be found to be a derivative. This has been done for the purpose of clarity and lucidity.

It is not sufficient for you to know the most appropriate word or phrase that matches the definition. Unless you know how to use it in an expressive sentence, it won't serve the desired purpose. Some words and phrases are self-explanatory; others have been used in sentences to give you practical guidance. If a particular derivative has a different shade of meaning or is used in a different way, you should take careful note of it.

This is not the place where grammatical rules can be discussed at length. Certain broad and general terms should, however, be pointed out. A noun is Countable, Uncountable (or both, depending on its use), singular or plural (sometimes treated as singular). It can be used attributively or as a modifier. A verb is Transitive, Intransitive or both, depending on its use. In some cases, plurals and feminines need careful attention. Foreign words and phrases call for extra effort. Idioms or idiomatic usages fall under a different category.

Certain common suffixes, generally speaking, change the words into nouns, though it cannot be taken as a rule. Similarly, it is easy to know, from the suffix, whether the word is a verb, adjective or adverb. Most of the derivatives can, therefore, be used in sentences without any guidance. Articles, prepositions and tenses [esp verb forms] pose a problem for learners and this problem should be seriously addressed.

What is important, in the final analysis, is how a word or phrase should be used to the best possible effect.

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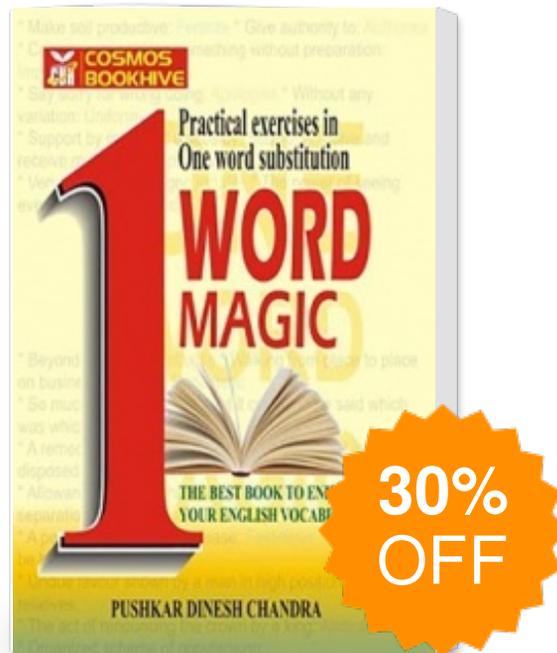
PART ONE—DEFINITIONS

Give a single word/phrase for each of the following expressions and use it in a sentence/sentences so as to make its meaning clear — (also, give derivatives, if any):

EXERCISE I

1. The practice of misrepresenting one's real character, qualities, beliefs or feelings, especially by pretending to be more virtuous than one really is
2. A person who adopts this practice
3. The practice of spying or using spies to obtain secret information
4. A system of government in which people choose their rulers and representatives through elections
5. An advocate of this system
6. The study of the statistics of births, deaths, diseases, etc. in order to illustrate the conditions of life in a community
7. A State which is governed by a wealthy and powerful elite
8. A member of this wealthy elite
9. Government by the people of the highest social class or the nobility or a privileged group
10. A member of the highest social class or the nobility
11. A system of government through departments managed by State officials and not by elected representatives
12. Such an official
13. Absolute government by one person with unlimited power
14. Such an absolute ruler
15. A cruel and oppressive ruler with unlimited powers
16. A person who has little faith in human sincerity and integrity, who believes that people do not do things for good, sincere or noble reasons but only for their own advantage
17. No longer used, out of date, discarded
18. Becoming out of date, going out of use
19. Primarily concerned with money or other reward, interested only in making money
20. Happening or given after death; published after its author's death; born after its father's death
21. A completed contest in which neither player or side wins
22. Being or involving the first attempt or occurrence
23. Perform the duties of a public office; act in an official capacity
24. Easily annoyed or made angry
25. That cannot be understood
26. Not enjoying the company of other people; not friendly
27. Not connected with something; not applicable to a matter in hand
28. That is bound to happen or appear; that cannot be avoided
29. Causing or ending in death
30. The belief that all events are pre-determined and humans can do nothing to prevent them
31. Liked, enjoyed or admired by most people; prevalent among the general public; catering for the tastes and abilities of ordinary people; involving the will or preferences of the public in general
32. Make something known or available to the general public by presenting it in an easily understandable form
33. Unable to pay one's debts
34. A person judged by a lawcourt to be unable to pay his debts in full, whose property is then taken by the court and used to repay his creditors
35. Spoken or done without preparation or rehearsal
36. Speak or perform, compose or produce, without previous preparation; make or provide something quickly, without preparing it in advance and using whatever materials are to hand
37. Done on the spur of the moment; spoken or done without any thought or planning,

One Word Magic (Word Substitution)



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