

# Lexis

Module 1.2

# Some questions to discuss

- What is lexis?
- What are the lexical features?
- Give some examples for lexical features.

# Going deeper

- What is the difference between suffix and prefix?
- What is the difference between idioms and phrasal verbs?
- What is the difference between homophone and homonym?
- What is the difference between lexical set and word family?

# Affixation

- Affixation is the process of adding a prefix or suffix to a word.
- A meaningful group of letters added to the beginning or end of a word to make a new word, which can be a different part of speech from the original word, e.g. interview, interviewer. (Suffix and Prefix)

# Root word or base word

- The root or base words can have prefixes or suffixes to change the meaning, or just stay the same. Some examples are: view, joy, read, agree, tie, play, act, write.
- Some examples of **prefixes** could be: re-, pre-, dis-, mis-, un-, en-. Some examples of **suffixes** could be: -able, -ful, -er, -ing, -s, -ous, -ment, -ly, -ed, -or

# Word family

- A group of words that come from the same root or base word, e.g. economy, economist, economic. See root word, base word.

# Lexical set

- A group of words or phrases that are about the same content topic or subject, e.g. weather – storm, to rain, wind, cloudy.

# Compounds

- Nouns, verbs, adjectives or prepositions that are made up of two or more words and have one unit of meaning, e.g. assistant office manager, long-legged.



# Phrasal verbs

- A phrasal verb is a type of multiword verb which is made up of a verb + an adverb particle. For example: look after-  
A mother looks after her children.

# Collocation

- Words which are regularly used together. The relation between the words may be grammatical, for example when certain verbs/adjectives collocate with particular prepositions, e.g. depend on, good at or when a verb like make or do collocates with a noun, e.g. do the shopping, make a plan. Collocations may also be lexical when two content words are regularly used together, e.g. We went the wrong way NOT We went the incorrect way.

# Idiom noun or idiomatic adjective

- A group of words that are used together, in which the meaning of the whole word group is different from the meaning of each individual word. For example:

She felt under the weather (it means she felt ill)

# Cognates (false friends)

- A word in the target language which looks or sounds as if it has the same meaning as a similar word in the learners' first language but does not. For example:  
ACTUALLY-CURRENTLY  
ASSISTANCE-ATTENDANCE
- In other words, cognate languages and words have the same origin, or are related and in some way similar:  
The Italian word "mangiare" (= to eat) is cognate **with** the French "manger".

# Denotations

- the main meaning of a word, not including the feelings or ideas that people may connect with the word.
- the act of referring to something or naming it using a word

# Figurative meaning

- The figurative meaning of words and phrases used not with their basic meaning but with a more imaginative meaning, in order to create a special effect (e.g. Of course, she was using the term "massacre" in the figurative sense.

# Homonym

- A word with the same spelling and pronunciation as another word, but which has a different meaning, e.g. bit (past tense of 'bite') and a bit (a little).

# Homophones

- A word which sounds the same as another word, but has a different meaning or spelling, e.g. I knew he had won; I bought a new book.



# Register

- The level of formality when we speak or write.

How are you?

How you doing?

What's up?

# Synonyms and antonyms

- A synonym is a word or phrase that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word or phrase in the same language
- An antonym a word that means the opposite of another word

LEXICAL FEATURES			
Denotations			
Synonyms			
Antonyms/Opposites			
Lexical sets			
Word families			
Homophones			
Homonyms			
False friends/cognates			
Prefixes+base word			
Base word + suffixes			
Compounds			
Collocations			
Figurative meaning			
Idioms			

# Lexis in the classroom

- SS need to know the words and meet them several times so that their memory could be consolidated and they could get to know more about the word (other denotations, collocations, etc)
- Even if we are learning L1 or L2, we first recognize a word before we can use it, and we recognize the meaning of many words than we can use. These recognized words are known as “**receptive vocabulary**”. The words that we can use are called our “**productive vocabulary**”.

# Lexis in the classroom

- Brainstorming
- Key words
- Exposure (to expose)
- Pick up (words)
- Meaning from the context
- Gradual exposure
- Highlight chunks of language
- Recall vocabulary words